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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Envoy on Differences with Inspection Team

NC1307153893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, today received Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the League. Dr. Najm handed Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid a copy of a message by Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the president of the UN Security Council concerning Iraq's position vis-a-vis the two military sites where the United Nations wishes to install cameras.

Najm said that the meeting was motivated by Iraq's desire to inform the secretary general of the true Iraqi position.

The Iraqi delegate to the Arab League said that Iraq truly hopes to avoid confrontation or collision with the UN Security Council or any of its members. He added that a constructive, objective, and calm dialogue, conducted within the framework of UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, can produce positive results.

Najm said that Iraq has not rejected [lam yarfud] the placing of cameras in the two military sites or the two factories in question. He pointed out that one of these factories is used to produce fuel and was built last year with the knowledge and consent of the committee supervising the destruction of weapons.

The Iraqi delegate said that the second site is used to produce liquid fuel and has been regularly inspected by the international teams; 60 of them have already visited Iraq.

Najm said that these two weapons production sites operate in line with Resolution 687. The two sites, he reiterated, comply with UN resolutions and do not violate these resolutions.

Najm said that Iraq has met its obligations in full regarding Resolution 687, particularly the clauses concerning the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction, but has not received anything in return.

The Iraqi Arab League delegate said that what is currently being imposed on Iraq is the second phase mentioned in Resolution 715, concerning the monitoring of Iraqi military industry. This phase, he said, should take place after the sanctions on Iraq have been lifted.

Najm said that the inspection teams have pointed out that Iraq no longer possesses any nuclear, chemical, and/or mass-destruction weapons (long-range missiles). Therefore, Iraq has the right to ask for the blockade to be lifted before moving to the second phase, concerning monitoring, which is a subject of discussion [allati hiya mawdi' niqash].

The Iraqi delegate said that Iraq has met its obligations and wants the UN Security Council to fulfill its own in accordance with Resolution 687. Najm said that the atmosphere surrounding Iraq raises the possibility of a strike against Iraqi economic and industrial centers.

Najm said that some equipment and machinery that Iraq cannot import for the time being has been disassembled and transported elsewhere.

The Iraqi delegate added that Iraq wants to achieve a reasonable solution that guarantees its future rights and ensures its ability to exercise these rights with no hindrance or harassment.

Najm said that what he sees now is an attempt to turn matters around and delude the Arab and international public opinion into thinking that Iraq is obstructing the work of the committees or skirting its obligations with regard to UN resolutions. This is absolutely untrue, he said. We are willing to review the situation within the Security Council to find a way to guarantee Iraq's rights and the fulfillment of its obligations.

Islamic Affairs

Saudi Minister Calls For End to Arms Ban on Bosnia

LD1307210893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jul 93

["Text" of address by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and leader of the Saudi delegation to the ICO ministerial meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Islamabad on 13 July—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted, including 22-second break in reception] We must work seriously within the United Nations and do our utmost to implement the resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], including exempting the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the arms ban imposed on it as a part of former Yugoslavia. This is in order to enable it to practice its legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

We also should call on the UN Security Council to adopt suitable measures, including the use of force, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, against Serbian aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina. If we are not able to achieve this through the UN Security Council, and if the council is not able to deal effectively with and put an end to Serbian aggression, then we might have to try to hold a session of the UN General Assembly to ask it to preserve the entity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina or allow it to defend itself.

What the Islamic countries could do now, therefore, is urgently contact other countries, beginning with the members of the UN Security Council. In this context, we think that the concerned ministers on the contacts team should pay immediate visits to the capitals of the UN

Security Council permanent members in order to urge them to respond to the demands specified at the 21st ICO foreign ministers conference.

Mr. Chairman, the international community should stand firm in the face of the aggressors and adventurers. It should deter them from returning to their adventures and aggression and from using and resorting to force instead of resorting to dialogue and constructive logic. I am sure that the Islamic participation in this conference in itself constitutes a clear indication of the readiness to exert all possible efforts to ask the UN Security Council to hasten to carry out its complete role in restoring the situation to normality in Bosnia-Herzegovina in a way that will preserve its entity and sovereignty and restore stability to it within its historic identity.

I pray to God Almighty to guide our gathering toward the good of our Islamic nation and to support our just causes according to his saying: God supports those who support him. God is strong. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Meeting Concludes; Plan of Action Outlined

BK1307165293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The two-day Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] special ministerial meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina concluded in Islamabad today after adopting a plan of action. The plan envisages dispatch of about 18,000 troops for the UN protection force to restore peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Pakistan has pledged to send 3,000 troops for the UN protection force and other countries which will send troops there include Iran, Malaysia, Tunisia, Bangladesh, and Turkey. The ICO member-states also expressed their readiness to send additional troops if requested by the United Nations. The action plan calls for increasing the powers of the UN protection force to protect the besieged areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The plan also seeks clarification about the joint command system and calls for the representation of the troops of the ICO member-states at the highest level in this system so that the troops can be protected from dangers during their deployment and they can be provided with equipment and air support, and, at the same time, the powers of the UN protection force commanders can be determined. The action plan calls for the immediate reconvening of the restructured London conference to consider Bosnia-Herzegovina's proposal to find a political settlement of this conflict.

The plan appeals to the UN Security Council to lift the unjustified arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina so that the country can exercise its fundamental right of individual and collective self-defense. It also urges the Security Council and the UN secretary general to take immediate steps to improve the situation in Sarajevo and other towns of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a declaration issued at the end of the meeting, the ICO foreign ministers condemned the serious and organized violation of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and expressed grave concern at the deployment of thousands of Indian troops to suppress the Kashmiri people's demand for their right to self-determination.

At the meeting, an ICO ministerial mission comprising the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, and Senegal and the ICO secretary general was set up. The mission will visit various countries of the world to mobilize support for translating into action the plan for establishing just and lasting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The meeting reaffirmed support for the Palestinian movement, the intifadah, the Middle East peace process, and the just struggle of the Cypriot Turks. It also condemned the continued Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and expressed deep concern over the situation in Somalia.

Later, while briefing reporters on the salient points of the action plan, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan said after the declaration of an action plan by the United Nations for ensuring the safety of the peacekeeping force, the Islamic countries—who have committed troops—will require about four to six weeks to send their troops to Bosnia.

Earlier, talking to newsmen, Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said the action plan adopted by the meeting indicates that the ICO can work effectively and with total consensus.

The foreign ministers and the heads of delegations attending the special ICO ministerial meeting called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. Speaking on the occasion, the president called on the delegates to adopt a clear-cut action plan and a concrete and bold stand to save Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the time has now come for taking concrete actions instead of adopting only resolutions. He said effective steps need to be taken immediately to check the violation of the international humanitarian law and to punish the perpetrators of genocide and crimes against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Hamid al-Ghabid, the ICO secretary general, apprised the president of the ICO's viewpoints on the situation in Bosnia.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Rejects Gaza First Offer

TA1307132893 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Jul 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has rejected Israel's offer to introduce autonomy in Gaza first while giving Judaea and Samaria broad self-government powers. The offer was rejected during secret contacts authoritative Israeli elements have held with him and the PLO leadership.

In their discussions with the Americans, the Palestinians and the Egyptians made it clear that, at present, the basic Palestinian demand is that the PLO be incorporated in the negotiations.

'Arafat claimed that he is not interested in being the mayor of Gaza and that he regards himself a head of state. According to him, his accepting the offer of autonomy in Gaza first would mean that he would become mayor. Yesterday, 'Arafat confirmed that two unsuccessful meetings were held with Israelis.

Knowledgeable sources have reported that the meetings failed because the PLO leaders insisted that the discussions deal with two central issues: the status of Jerusalem and the autonomy borders. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Assesses Discussions With U.S. Envoy

JN1307164393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Report by Ahmad 'Ubaydat from the "With The Events" feature—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi this afternoon held a news conference at the Orient House in East Jerusalem to discuss the meetings the Palestinian delegation held with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross. Asked if new proposals were made to the U.S. envoy, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said:

"We have not made new proposals, but we presented a formulation approved by the PLO on jurisdiction over territory, including Jerusalem and the settlements, within the terms of reference of the peace process."

Last night, the Palestinian delegation met with the U.S. envoy at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. It presented to the U.S. envoy certain new drafts and items. This afternoon, the Palestinian delegation again met with the U.S. envoy at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. Regarding these two meetings and the topics discussed, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said:

"Last night's meeting was to brief us on the outcome of the U.S. delegation's meetings in the Arab countries. We then moved to discussing territorial jurisdiction, including the question of East Jerusalem and the settlements within the peace process terms of reference. We raised, once again, the need to implement [UN Resolution] 799 as soon as possible. We presented to them a draft formulation by the PLO regarding territorial jurisdiction and Jerusalem. Today, we continued these discussions. They gave us their initial response and impression of this draft formula. We also discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the current coordination and contacts between the two parties. They presented their viewpoint on the early transfer of powers. We agreed to continue discussion of these topics. We also talked about the conditions in the occupied territories and about Israeli practices there."

Asked if there was progress in the peace process and about the continuity of contacts with the Americans, Dr. 'Ashrawi said:

"I think it is too early to speak about progress now. Basic viewpoints and a substantive formula on the basic points of dispute were presented. It is too early to expect quick progress. We have to wait for reactions, because so far we have not received official reactions from Israel or the United States. Contacts will most likely continue because the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is continuing and was not suspended."

Asked about the most important points and demands made by the Palestinian delegation to the U.S. envoy, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said:

"...and the issue of requirements to ensure the success of the process, as it should have been in the past. Israel wanted to use them as a tool of pressure. We refuse to have the issues of human rights, deportees, and conditions in the occupied territories be turned into issues for which a political price must be paid. We do not demand gestures or concessions. But we demand a right: To make Israel abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and fulfill the commitments it made to the world community."

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi added that much work and negotiation can be done to boost the peace process despite the obstacles it faces. Dr. 'Ashrawi said a fruitful U.S. role to bridge the gap and not create new gaps would be appreciated. I asked Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi if there was a Palestinian leaning toward the confederation instead of the self-rule. She said:

"There is, of course, Palestinian-Jordanian coordination on the highest levels on the confederation, its concept, meaning, mechanisms, and follow-up measures. This coordination is in implementation of decisions taken in 1991 to set up the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee. We believe that agreement on confederation and its meaning will, of course, help accelerate the process and achieve the final solution. If the direction we are heading toward is clear, this will help Israel show further flexibility in the peace process and explain the substantive issues Israel does not want to deal with right now."

The Jordanian-Palestinian political committee, currently meeting in Jordan, is studying coordination of the basic issues related to the peace process and the future of relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. Faysal al-Husayni is attending these meetings. A permanent operations room has been set up by the two parties to exchange information and documents over various developments.

Sha'th Comments on Ross Visit, Peace Process

PM1307134493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 93 p 3

[Report on telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Ali Nun in Cairo on 11 July]

[Excerpts] London—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has affirmed that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, is trying on his current tour to find a solution that "would prevent reaching the point of decisive confrontation regarding the PLO's direct participation in the negotiations and the start of negotiations on the final phase," but he believes that fulfillment of these two objectives is not too far off, "even if we achieve a solution" that would allow a declaration of principles regarding the transitional period.

In a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday, Sha'th, who is in Cairo, said that the Palestinian position was crystal clear and that "the ball is now in the U.S.-Israeli court. It is impossible to accept the U.S. ideas without amendment of the two points pertaining to the geographical jurisdiction and Jerusalem." [passage omitted]

He said: "We do not want it to appear as if we are negotiating about principles again. The Americans understand that well, and they are trying to modify their paper so that we may be able to address it. If Ross succeeds in that, then the process will continue. He knows that we do not want to boycott the negotiations, and we have not raised the issue of boycotting it. A boycott is not on. We have not said that we wish to torpedo the peace process. Very clearly, what we need is continued U.S. commitment to the terms of reference and to the U.S. undertakings made to us and, subsequently, the presentation of ideas that would enable us to discuss a document of principles on autonomy." [passage omitted]

In reply to another question, he said: "Ross has returned to occupied Jerusalem (from Cairo) to discuss with the Israelis what he heard in Cairo. Our position is crystal clear, and we will not back down from it. All the parties that have been acquainted with it have responded and have understood. Even Britain offered to issue statements confirming its known positions on Resolution 242, Jerusalem, and other matters. At any rate, if Ross wants real progress, he will get it from the Israelis only by persuading them to change their positions." [passage omitted]

Finally, asked if he thought the Israelis were serious about reaching a settlement, he said: "Without doubt, the Israelis want a solution, but on what terms? Their ambition is not only to minimize the Palestinian resistance and Palestinian targets but also to open the door to Arab economies. They know for sure that this will not happen without a settlement with the Arabs, which is not possible without a settlement with the Palestinian people."

'Abbas on Peace Talks, Ross Tour, Jordan Relations

JN1407094193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jul 93 pp 28, 24

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas has denied that any meetings have taken place between PLO officials and Israeli Labor Party ministers.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, Mahmud 'Abbas added that attempts to hold two meetings between PLO and Israeli officials have failed.

'Abbas said what 'Arafat had said was in reply to recent statements about official contacts between the PLO and the Israeli Government. He added: But the truth is that no such contacts or meetings were held between the PLO and Israeli officials. He said: If we want to speak about meetings with journalists or Israeli Knesset members, many such meetings were held with them in Tunis.

Mahmud 'Abbas added: This does not mean we are against any contacts or meetings with the Israeli Government. On the contrary, we welcome such meetings between the PLO and the Israeli Government because we believe this is the shortest way to achieve peace. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] does not speak casually when he repeatedly calls on the Israeli prime minister to meet with him. 'Abbas said: We know what impact such a meeting between these two men would have on the peace process.

On the statements by Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, that he is ready to go to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Mahmud 'Abbas said: Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif's statements are irresponsible and do not accurately express the PLO stand. When Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif says from time to time that he is ready to go to Jerusalem or to other places and meet with officials, he is expressing a personal opinion.

Regarding the U.S. paper, Mahmud 'Abbas said: Taken as a whole, the paper is not good. Our first impression of it was negative. But when details were discussed, we focused attention on the three worst points it contains: territorial jurisdiction, Jerusalem, and the implementation of Resolution 242. The discussions that were held either in Jerusalem, or between Faysal al-Husayni and Dennis Ross, or with the Egyptian brothers focused on these three points. But this does not mean that if we reach a formula for these three points, the other points in the paper will become acceptable. There are many points on security and other issues that need to be studied and discussed before agreement is reached on them. If agreement is reached on these points, then the road will be paved to reach agreement on a declaration of principles between us and the Israelis.

On Ross' visit to the region, 'Abbas said the U.S. official has come to the region to listen more than to talk and to see the impressions of the Palestinians or some of the

Arab parties that are close to the Palestinians regarding the U.S. paper. He will communicate what he heard to Washington, and, in light of what he hears, he might return, or the U.S. secretary of state might visit the region.

Concerning reports about transferring the talks from Washington to Tunis or Cairo, Mahmud 'Abbas said that transferring the talks now is not possible and is not desired. The talks will continue to be held in Washington under the auspices of the sponsor and in its presence.

On the talks between Jordanian and Palestinian officials, Mahmud 'Abbas, who heads the Palestinian side to these talks, said that these talks focus on coordination between us and the brothers in Jordan. He said: I am not saying the initiation of coordination, but to give it more momentum.

On the Palestinian concept of a confederation with Jordan, Mahmud 'Abbas said that there are no concepts on this and that we have not discussed such concepts. We are in agreement on the confederation principle, and its details will be discussed in the future.

On the PLO's relations with the Gulf countries, Mahmud 'Abbas said: We visited Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The road is paved for other visits in the not too distant future. These visits will dispel the clouds that obscure Arab relations and will open the door to the normalization of relations.

Editorial: Israel, U.S. Beating 'Drums of War'

TA1307172193 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 13 Jul 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Peace and the Drums of War"]

[Text] As the Arab-Palestinian-U.S. discussions over the document of "ideas" that coordinator Dennis Ross is carrying are bogged down, there are daily news reports and indications that another issue might shake the region, already packed with tremors and volcanoes. General Ehud Barak, Israeli chief of staff, in a television interview two nights ago, made direct and clear statements about a possible large-scale Israeli military operation in south Lebanon under the slogan of "maintaining Israel's security." In addition there are U.S. statements on a possible new military strike against Iraq.

This adverse news buildup, with its military uproar, might turn everything upside down. It diverts international, regional, and local public opinion from the peace process and exploits efforts, providing solutions by plunging public opinion into a climate of potential war. This is not just a conventional, normal, and known military operation in the region but a serious war. At the least the aim might be intimidation with a clear threat of a destructive war. This, instead of being engrossed in the negotiations and pursuing the discussions with patience, wisdom, and persistence in promoting the peace process. We have learned from experience and from our distress in stage after stage that this media storm, this saber-rattling, is the initial conspiracy for the outbreak of war. Does Washington intend to repeat the experience with us? Is Rabin's government trying now to shatter remaining hope for reviving the peace process?

Nonetheless, no party is willing to destroy the paved road toward the aspired-for peace. Then, why do they beat the drums of war without paying heed to any peace on this earth?

Fatah's al-Hasan Comments on National Dialogue

PM1307112693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jul 93 p 3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] In your capacity as head of the national dialogue committee, how do you view the dialogue that you have begun to prepare for with Syrian-based Palestinian political forces?

[Al-Hasan] In that dialogue, we proceed—with open hearts—from firm convictions that there are three issues that any national liberation movement must safeguard, otherwise it is doomed to failure. The first of these issues is to safeguard the national aim. The second is to achieve the unity of all the popular and political forces, that is, to secure a so-called national consensus on the national aim. The third issue is the presence of a leading organization capable of leadership through its popular extension and internal presence. These three issues are linked, and we are going into this dialogue proceeding from a sincere national desire to hold a dialogue with our brothers with no prior conditions. We must believe that patriotism cannot be monopolized by one quarter and that all patriots seek to meet and talk.

[Al-Qulaybi] And what do you expect from that dialogue?

[Al-Hasan] It has become clear to everyone that high-level U.S.-Israeli coordination was initiated the minute the Clinton administration arrived. This coordination developed to the extent that the United States submitted a draft document for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue for which the known Israeli strategist Ze'ev Schiff could do nothing but thank the United States, because—as he put it—the guarantees and details it contained in relation to security exceeded what Israel had listed in its document. This is why there must be readiness to confront the pressures to which the Palestinian leadership and the Arab states will be subjected.

The submission of this document is evidence of the launch of a political offensive coupled with various kinds of pressures. This is why all we expect from this dialogue is for the Palestinians to agree to unite their efforts and agree on a certain view that secures the mobilization of Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic forces to confront the pressures

of the U.S. Administration, which has dropped the veil and shown that it is Israel's full partner, not the impartial arbiter, as we had first thought and expected.

[Al-Qulaybi] Is this national dialogue required to draw up a new Palestinian strategy for the negotiations, or is the aim just to exchange views and ideas that are not binding on any party?

[Al-Hasan] Among the things the U.S. paper has proved is that the dream of reaching an agreement we can call a national solution is unattainable. Creating new realities on the ground is a major necessity in order to get the United States and Israel to recognize the minimum Palestinian national rights. Thus the national dialogue is an important occasion that allows us to submit an alternative. I do not want to elaborate further on this point, lest the brothers in other factions think that we are forcing something on them. However, I proudly say that we in Fatah are determined to shoulder the responsibility and perform the duty. This is because Fatah is a movement that does not know capitulation. It was created to achieve victory or martyrdom. This is the reason for its continuation and ability to survive for more than 27 years in a ferocious confrontation, but no one can make a major achievement without national unity. Thus we must all determine the means and mechanisms of the confrontation. In my view, this is the key question of the Palestinian national dialogue.

[Al-Qulaybi] Hamas has said that it will not hold a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat within the PLO framework. What is your opinion, and what, in your view, is the solution to this problem?

[Al-Hasan] Of course, any quarter is entitled to say what it wants and believes in, provided that it enters a dialogue with all parties, especially when this dialogue is not binding beforehand. We—whether in Fatah, Hamas, or others—must all take into account the views of the great majority of Palestinian political, popular, and unionist forces.

[Al-Qulaybi] It has also been reported that the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], which is led by George Habash, has set conditions for its participation in the dialogue. It voiced reservations about holding the dialogue in Tunisia, demanding that it be held in Yemen.

[Al-Hasan] Everyone is entitled to say what he wants and set the conditions he wants. However, our strength in Fatah lies in the fact that we do not set prior conditions, even though we are entitled to do so. But when we discuss national unity, the spirit of feud, stubbornness, and dispute should not prevail among us, but, rather, the spirit of looking out for the vital interests of the Palestinian people should dominate. And if there are determining factors for any national dialogues, such as the substance, framework, timing, venue, and parties, the most important of these factors is how to secure a national substance that we can apply, implement, and achieve. This is the pivotal point that we must discuss in depth, and no organization should appease another. The substance will determine the future of the land and the destiny of the Palestinian people's national cause.

[Al-Qulaybi] What are your most important observations about the new U.S. document?

[Al-Hasan] I personally am not surprised by that document and its provisions. The big mistake in the negotiations began when the provisions of the invitation letter were accepted and when U.S. intentions were relied on. Thus we unequivocally say that this document must not be dealt with in any way, because this document does not believe in what it says, nor does it believe in what it kept silent about. Postponing to the final stage a discussion of the issue of sovereignty over the territory under Israeli authority means that the United States wants to impose on us the idea that the Palestinian territories are disputed, not occupied, territories—which we cannot accept, because it does not lead to any national solution. Israel must withdraw from every inch of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and first and foremost from Jerusalem. Then the United States is entitled to set conditions for complete withdrawal, and negotiations will be conducted on that basis. The issue raised for negotiation is the price of the complete withdrawal, not to whom this territory belongs.

Anyone who believes that the Palestinian position is weak is mistaken. Time will prove that we are pursuing the political line that will determine the utmost degree of the confrontation. Many Palestinians have been frustrated because they thought the peace was approaching. We all know that when armies know that victory is very close, they do not fight as ferociously as before. This is why U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that the United States will be preoccupied with other issues if the parties do not respond. We say that Christopher is deceiving us, and he cannot close the Middle East file without achieving progress that is acceptable to the Palestinians and that leads to calm in the region. The United States is in urgent need of pacifying the Palestinians and reaching an understanding with them, otherwise the U.S. Administration would not have made a move and its position would have been similar to that on Bosnia-Herzegovina: betraying the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and watching the murder, rape, and human right violations that occur there.

Algeria

Union Statement Supports HSC Plan, Condemns Terrorism

LD1307215893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The proceedings of the sixth session of the National Executive Committee of the General Union of Algerian Workers concluded at the Palais des Nations this afternoon. The committee approved a statement describing the preliminary project for a national consensus platform issued by the Higher State Council [HSC] as a positive document that can form a basis for achieving a national consensus during the national seminar.

The statement also condemned terrorism in all its forms—psychological, physical, and economic—and asked all the parties of the national dialogue at the same time to define clear stances in connection with the national cause before convening the national seminar.

Egypt

Musa Regards Attacks on Lebanon as 'Unacceptable'

NC1307171893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has commented on reports about the escalation of tension in south Lebanon by saying that any attack against Lebanon's sovereignty is unacceptable. He called for a level-headed approach to the situation and for any policy that infringes upon Lebanon's sovereignty to be reconsidered.

Musa said that the Lebanese-Israeli talks should be given the chance to make some progress. Therefore, any action against Lebanon or its southern region should be stopped. Musa said that Egypt is holding consultations to contain the situation.

Concerning Somalia, the foreign minister said that the situation is still critical. He added that actions taken by some local leaders create difficulties on the path of national reconciliation.

Musa said that he has sent a message to the Moroccan foreign minister in the context of continued consultations.

The foreign minister said that he will visit Greece for talks concerning developments in the Mediterranean and the Balkans as well as bilateral relations. He pointed out that Egypt and Greece intend to sign several agreements to further their cooperation in various fields.

Concerning his visit to Lebanon, Musa said that he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and will hold talks with the Lebanese foreign minister concerning the situation in the Middle East and the peace efforts.

Musa pointed out that he met today with Muhammad Jad-al-Haqq, Egyptian ambassador to Sudan.

Musa, Others Leave for Greece

NC1307181393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, left Cairo today for Greece. There they will take part in the meetings of the Egyptian-Greek Committee, which will begin its work in Athens tomorrow, Wednesday, and continue working for three days.

Musa is due to deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis. [passage omitted]

Israel's Mosad, CIA Said Involved in Terror Bombings

NC1407060593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Excerpt] AL-SHA'B has learned that the competent security agencies are still looking for two foreign tourists who disappeared after the explosion in Wadi al-Nil Cafe in al-Tahrir square [in Cairo] on 27 February. According to information, the two tourists stayed for four hours near and inside the cafe—specifically, from 1700 until 2100. The criminal explosion took place just after they left.

According to the information, the two missing tourists are Israelis, and they carried out the operation at the instructions of the Israeli intelligence agency, Mosad, with the full support of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, which is used as a hideout for Mosad agents.

The information says that the CIA has been directly involved with the Mosad in many (terrorist) operations in Egypt over the past few months. The two agencies concluded an agreement to support all the (terrorist) operations that shake the stability of the region's states in order to speed up the annihilation of all Islamic movements. In this respect, the information says that the CIA allocated $200 million to escalate violence in the Middle East.

The information further says that in April 1992 the Mosad set up a special committee called the "Committee for Reviving Judaism in the Middle East" and comprising 20 Israeli experts tasked with confronting and undermining the Islamic awakening in the region as a first step toward the revival of Judaism. The committee enjoys the patronage of the Israeli Government and is in

close and direct contact with the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to achieve its objectives. [passage omitted]

Two 'Highly Dangerous Terrorists' Arrested in Imbabah

NC1307211093 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari]

[Excerpt] Al-Jizah security authorities arrested two highly dangerous terrorists in Imbabah in a dawn ambush two days ago. They are 'Antar Ahmad al-Zayyat, commander in charge of the al-Jihad Organization's military operations, and his assistant Yasir Shahbun.

The two suspects planned and carried out all the operations in which explosive charges were thrown at police officers' cars; 12 video shops were burned; and two railway soldiers and Captain Khalid Zamzam, a detective officer in the north al-Jizah squad, were assassinated. Preliminary interrogations of the terrorists, which were conducted in full secrecy, revealed that they made explosive charges in the first suspect's home in western al-Munirah.

A responsible security source in al-Jizah security directorate said observation of the two suspects confirmed that they received training in a terrorist camp in the Iranian city of Mashhad. This training enabled them to escape after each terrorist operation they carried out. They provided their fellow extremists in Warraq al-'Arab with automatic weapons used in assassinating Captain Khalid Zamzam in May when he raided their hideout to arrest them. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Saharan Foreign Minister Delivers Message for President

LD1307211793 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] On behalf of his excellency the president of the republic, His Excellency Prime Minister Mr. Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker this morning received Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, foreign minister of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, who delivered to him a message from Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz to His Excellency President Mr. Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya.

The meeting was attended by (Mohamed Ould Nani), adviser at the presidency.

Sudan

Khartoum Names Date for Foreign Ministers' Talks

NC1307214393 Paris AFP in English 2104 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, July 13 (AFP)—Sudan has proposed July 21 or 22 for a meeting of foreign ministers from Sudan and Egypt, as agreed upon by presidents 'Umar al-Bashir and Husni Mubarak, to discuss outstanding problems between the two countries.

The director of the political department of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, Mahdi Ibrahim, said in weekly press briefing Tuesday [13 July] he was hopeful that the meeting would settle all issues of disagreement between Sudan and Egypt.

Relations between the two countries are strained over accusations that each of them hosts and assists opposition elements and over a border dispute in the Hala'ib triangle on the Red Sea.

Ibrahim also criticized international relief organizations and United Nations agencies for failing to assist his government in shipping relief supplies to needy areas in southern Sudan.

General al-Bashir has repeatedly accused relief organizations and other Western organizations operating in Sudan of failing to transport more than 150,000 tonnes of relief made available by his government to the south of the country.

Al-Bashir Denounces Reports on Training Camps

EA1307212093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has stressed that the fabricated reports, which are full of lies and being circulated by various media, claiming the presence of training camps for extremist groups have no basis in truth and lack any evidence to support the claims. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir told the London-based AL-'ARAB on 12 July that the false reports were part of a campaign being waged by suspect foreign circles to distort Sudan's image. He challenged any quarter to find any foreign presence in the camps of the People's Defense Force, whose membership is open only to Sudanese nationals.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed support for all initiatives launched to clear the Arab atmosphere and to bring about Arab unity because the threat leveled against the Arab nation rendered the resolution of differences unavoidable. His Excellency stressed that the talk about violations of human rights was part of the campaign to distort the magnitude of the revolution's achievements. He said the revolution constantly worked to uphold

public freedoms, and cooperation in the country was being brought about on the basis of the revolution's firm principles.

Foreign Minister Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC1307150093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
6 Jul 93 pp 7, 9

[Interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih by AL-SHA'B correspondent Khalid Yusuf in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Yusuf] Minister Abu-Salih, Sudan's agenda is full of problems while the National Salvation Revolution is in its fourth year. How do you view the achievements on various levels? What about the future regarding the problems of rebellion in the south, the idea of safe buffer zones, the economic blockade, cessation of aid, accusing the National Salvation Revolution of supporting terrorism, tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations, human rights issues, and the tense ties with the major industrial countries, especially the United States?

[Abu-Salih] Let us look back a little because to understand the situation we must see how things developed. In the past two centuries, the colonialist countries dominated other countries by force under the pretext of civilizing backward countries. The people's struggle and sacrifices ended this era. During the Cold War and the conflict between the two superpowers, colonialism sought zones of influence, axes, and economic and technological subservience. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the West thought that things had come under its control and began to think of dominating other countries with the same old methods. The West used the existing organizations and controlled the United Nations by trying to change the foundations on which it was based. The West began to think of Africa along these lines, using the Kampala forum and so-called "realistic diplomacy." However, the actions attributed to the United Nations are giving tangible results that need no comment. It is sufficient to mention in this respect Iraq, Israel, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Somalia.

[Yusuf] This leads us to a direct question about Sudan's position on the U.S. proposal for buffer zones in south Sudan.

[Abu-Salih] We called on everyone to see the facts for himself by visiting the south. Those who want to partition Sudan and interfere in its domestic affairs base their claim about security zones on their being established to ensure the arrival of foodstuff and aid programs to these areas easily. Everyone who wanted to learn the truth saw for himself that the areas where the aid programs face problems are the areas under rebel control. The National Salvation Revolution granted aid to the areas affected by the war and to the refugees from the areas controlled by the rebels. The Sudanese Government, the United Nations, and the rebels signed an agreement known as the "Lifeline" program to distribute food to all areas. We also signed an agreement on aid. The cost of transporting relief aid was estimated at $33 million, of which the international community donated only $15 million. Our efforts did not stop at this. We signed several agreements with international organizations that are not controlled by any state to work in the south and offer all facilities. We backed these efforts by observing a cease-fire, although everyone knows that the military situation there is completely in our favor. We agreed to the cease-fire and abided by it when the rebels violated it because we care for Sudanese blood, for our sons in the south, and for the country's resources, which have been squandered by war.

[Yusuf] Mr. Minister, the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum has said that he visited the tense areas in the south and reached an agreement with the warring parties for a cease-fire and a disengagement of forces and that they—the warring parties—want the buffer zones to be under UN forces.

[Abu-Salih] What has happened so far is not official. The U.S. ambassador did go to the south, where fighting was raging between two rebel groups. He reached a cease-fire with them. The desire for creating buffer zones where UN forces are deployed that he spoke about is merely the desire of a people who have no legitimacy in Sudan. Sudan will never concede its sovereignty. In this respect, we say the following: Sudan is completely willing to establish relations with everyone, without infringing on sovereignty and on the basis of equality.

[Yusuf] The international efforts, particularly U.S. ones, in an attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of African countries is a new mechanism for resolving conflicts. What is Sudan's position on this?

[Abu-Salih] Sudan has presented a concept for developing the mechanism for resolving conflicts while maintaining stability and peace. Sudan stresses that that this should be African made and financed so that it will not fall victim to the unequal relations between the donor and recipient. Sudan wants to cooperate with all the people and governments on the basis of mutual interests.

[Yusuf] You mentioned at the beginning the U.S. endeavor to use the United Nations to impose a blatant hegemony on people by changing the principled bases on which the United Nations was established. Is the incorporation of human rights in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which stipulates the use of force and economic, military, and other sanctions, one of the relations of the new U.S. world order?

[Abu-Salih] It is not a question of human rights. It is a U.S.-European attempt to have a human intellectual concept replace religion among our people. They are proposing human rights, a free-market economy, the right to self-determination, economic and social development, etc., in order to let the intellectual concept replace religion among our people. This is part of the strategy of confrontation in the next century. We have presented a human rights paper based on religion, the

essence of which is man's right to live and develop his body, intellect, and spirit. The Africans and Asians have also opposed the U.S. attempt to present concepts stemming from the liberal Western experience, which is alien to the people of the world and their unique characteristics. The Asian stand so far remains more positive and firm.

[Yusuf] Mr. Minister, one of the accusations leveled against Sudan's National Salvation Revolution in the region and the world is that it supports terrorist trends and provides camps in Sudan for Islamists engaged in armed violence in their countries. This is the reason some countries give for their strong positions against the salvation revolution. What do you think?

[Abu-Salih] I would like to stress first that Islam is a religion and that the Islamic message is one of compassion and cordiality. In principle, individual and collective terrorism represent a departure from Islam. We said we welcome anyone who wishes to come to Sudan to show us where the camps are. Indeed, we have made every effort to prove that what we say is true. This did not mean we agreed to others interfering in our affairs. Rather, we proceeded from a strong position and a desire to rid Islam of the terrorism charge, which the enemies of our Arab and Islamic nation, and indeed the enemies of humanity at large, are trying to establish. As I said, this is a strategic matter for the new world order. Islam in the region and the world represents a challenge. Its mission was and will continue to be getting man out of the narrow concept of civilization and progress offered by materialistic, earthly beliefs. Despite the very long time between the Crusades and Allenby's entry into Jerusalem, Allenby did not forget to stop there and say: Now the Crusades have ended.

[Yusuf] Mr. Minister, the war against us is taking various and complicated forms these days. It changes according to circumstances. Some of these forms are vicious and flagrant, while others involve intelligence wars and dirty operations. Does the tension in Sudanese-Egyptian relations reflect one of the successes of our nation's enemies?

[Abu-Salih] I would like to make it very clear here that Egyptian-Sudanese relations, no matter what the reasons and irrespective of who is in power in both countries, cannot go beyond certain limits imposed by the facts of history, geography, actual reality, and even the foreseeable future. Sudanese blood runs in the veins of the Egyptians, and Egyptian blood in the veins of the Sudanese. This is not an unfounded argument. The government and people of Sudan are eager not only to contain the tension, but to establish the highest level of cooperation and joint action with Egypt. We have said in the past and we are saying now that the Egyptians can find in Sudan arable lands to cultivate for the good of both Egypt and Sudan, and indeed for the good of all Arab and Islamic countries. I am not talking about five feddans, but about millions of feddans awaiting the work and investments of the brothers in Egypt. We are seeking to solve the Hala'ib problem and any other causes of tension through peaceful means and negotiations.

Minister Explains Delay in Abuja Peace Talks

EA1307210293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Mr. 'Abdallah Deng Niyal, the minister of peace and rehabilitation, has announced that the government remains prepared to continue negotiating and talking with the rebel movement with a view toward arriving at a just and comprehensive peace. In a press statement issued while he was participating in the sixth conference of governors, which is currently being held in Wau, his excellency said that the postponement of the Abuja peace talks, which were due to have been held on 27 June, was due to Nigeria's preoccupation with a number of internal issues. Niyal said the achievement of peace was and had been the revolution government's first priority ever since it came to power in June 1989.

His excellency said the convening of the consultative conference of governors in Bahr al-Ghazal clearly confirmed that security had been achieved in the southern states. He said the Ministry of Peace and Rehabilitation was working to establish more peace villages and to provide services for refugees and returnees who were fleeing from the hellfire of the rebellion in large numbers every day.

Foreign Minister Questioned on Human Rights Situation

EA1407102593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih received at his office the visiting member of the British House of Lords, Baroness Cox, and her accompanying delegation. Dr. Abu Salih briefed Lady Cox on the situation in the Sudan, the government's endeavors to realize peace in Sudan, and the negotiations and people's congresses that are the basis of the political system adopted by Sudan.

Dr. Abu Salih reviewed the spirit of social solidarity characterizing the Sudanese society and the government's (?acts of) support for families and its [word indistinct] sectors that link the self-reliance principle adopted by Sudan. He confirmed Sudan's endeavors to promote relations with all countries, including the Western European countries and the United States.

During the meeting, Abu Salih replied to the delegation's questions about the human rights situation in Sudan, explaining the government's efforts to send aid to the war-affected and displaced people in the south. He also explained Sudan's stand toward the international envoy for humanitarian affairs, clarifying that the government doesn't object to his coming to Sudan, but is opposed to the way he was appointed.

Talks With Jordanians End; Statements Issued

EA1407094593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1700 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jul (SUNA)—The visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation left here Monday [12 July] after participating in the fourth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution delegations. Head of the delegation, Dr 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat described in a statement at the airport the visit as successful and [said it] would push further the bilateral relations between the two countries, adding that the visit has given them the chance to get acquainted with the Sudanese life. He further said that the delegation has conducted a number of meetings with the Sudanese officials, indicating that the Sudan has rich national resources that would enable it to be at the top of the Arab countries. The delegation was seen off at the airport by the TNA [Transitional National Assembly] speaker, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the external relations committee at the TNA presented before Monday session the joint statement of the Jordanian delegation talks with the TNA has approved the statement which stressed the importance of resolving the Arab world dispute through peaceful means. [sentence as received] The statement also called for exchanging the experiences between the parliaments in the two countries, as it voiced condemnation to the U.S. aggression against Iraq.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Norwegian Foreign Minister

LD1307142893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] At Carthage Palace this morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst in the presence of Foreign minister Habib Ben Yahia.

Following the meeting, which was attended by the Norwegian ambassador in Tunis, Holst made a statement in which he expressed great honor to be received by the president and to hold a long conversation with him. He added that the conversation focused in particular on the excellent relations that exist between the two countries and the important prospects they provide for strengthening bilateral cooperation. He noted that the meeting also dealt with the Middle East issue and the peace process in the area. He said: We hope that the negotiations which are taking place will produce positive results and that no other developments crop up to bar the realization of these hopes.

Holst also said that the talks touched on the need of Third World countries for more development and also the relationship between development and democracy and human rights. At the end of his statement he recorded an identity of views of Tunisia and Norway on the various issues that were raised during this meeting.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Confirms Polisario To Attend Laayoune Meeting

LD1307124493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic President Mohammed Abdelaziz confirmed today that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio De Oro [Polisario] will participate in the meeting with Morocco, which is expected to take place the day after tomorrow, Thursday, in Laayoune.

In an interview with the daily EL MOUDJAHID Mohammed Abdelaziz said that the Polisario Front will go to the meeting, which is sponsored by the United Nations, with strong will and determination to find a solution to the problem of the criteria required to determine the identity of the electorate to participate in the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara. This is still the subject of disagreement between the two sides of the dispute.

The Polisario Front secretary general expressed his hopes that the Moroccan side will have similar will. He said that that Laayoune meeting constitutes the beginning of another series of meetings whose dates and places will be set later.

It is known that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has warned Morocco and the Polisario Front that if they do not agree on the criteria for the census of the Sahraoui electorate, then the United Nations will resort to the compromise which consists of seven points and which was presented to the two sides last June.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Discusses Security Issues, Yemen, Oil

PM1407101693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 12-18 Jul 93 pp 23-27

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shahri] There has recently been much talk about your position on the Arab boycott of Israel. Can you clarify details of the Kuwaiti position? Was it a response to U.S. pressures on you to end this boycott?

[Al-Sabah] Regrettably, the boycott was interpreted out of the context of reality. The boycott comes in three categories: direct boycott of Israel, boycott of companies operating in Israel, and boycott of companies which deal with Israel. After the liberation of Kuwait there were no U.S. pressures, as is being said. We believed that our interests require these companies to rebuild the country. Even the boycott law says that interests are above any other considerations. We found that our interests are in dealing with some of these companies, not just U.S. companies, but European ones, too. But people interpreted that as though we had lifted the Arab boycott of Israel and established direct dealings with it.

[Al-Shahri] So you mean that your dealings are limited to companies which have dealings with Israel?

[Al-Sabah] I hope you will not confuse matters. Let us take, for example, Pan Am planes: They land in Israel. So if it is in my interest for these planes to land in my country, no one forces us to boycott them. To take another example, the Willis jeep vehicle was included in the boycott, but the boycott terms include the stipulation that any country is entitled to purchase this vehicle if its interests necessitate this. All the Arab world purchased this jeep, although it is boycotted. A third example: You can find the Coca Cola company everywhere in the Arab world. The Ford car was included in the boycott. How was the boycott lifted? We do not want to ask or discuss this issue in depth. So I hope it will not be said that the direct boycott of Israel has been lifted. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] Some people believe that Kuwait is fully convinced that it cannot rely on collective Arab security and that Arab security agreements are nothing more than formal frameworks which do not provide real protection—which is why Kuwait decided to conclude security agreements with the United States, European states, and Russia.

[Al-Sabah] First, I say that no one believes in collective Arab security more than the people of Kuwait. But what we regret is that what happened on 2 August 1990 caused the Kuwaiti people and Kuwaiti officials to believe that these matters, including the Joint Arab Defense Pact, are just ink on paper. This is why Kuwait has to seek help from its close brothers, the Gulf states, first and foremost the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to appeal for help from friends outside the Arab world. As for my brothers in Egypt and Syria, the Kuwaiti people will never forget their support of Kuwait and liberation of their country. To this day we still believe that when the situation changes for the better, perhaps confidence in collective Arab security will be restored. But at present collective Arab security will not provide or secure protection for me. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] Do you believe that the geographical barrier on your border with Iraq—the fourth fence, as you call it—is sufficient to provide protection for the country against any potential Iraqi invasion? When will it be completed?

[Al-Sabah] Regrettably, when we say the fourth fence some people think that there is a fence being built. This is why I would like to clarify that what we are doing at present is digging a trench with a sand barrier to prevent the continuation of infiltration operations from Iraq. It has nothing to do with hostility or nonhostility, but, rather, the desire to prevent infiltrators from crossing the border with Iraq to live outside it. So the aim is to prevent infiltration from Iraq and some smuggling operations. Besides, the idea of this fence, which the Kuwaiti people have volunteered to build, is not new. One exists on the U.S.-Mexican Border. It is equipped with electric devices and cameras to watch any crossing by infiltrators and smugglers. Its aim is not defense against invasion, because invasions are stopped by military forces and the forces of your allies, friends, and brothers.

[Al-Shahri] What have you done as regards developing your Armed Forces? Is there a plan to increase the effectiveness of these forces and to coordinate with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to develop the "Peninsula Shield" forces?

[Al-Sabah] I discussed that issue with the GCC states. With regard to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Army is being developed and its performance improved. At the same time there is a recommendation from the GCC defense ministers to increase the size of the Peninsula shield forces, whose task could be one day to defend not only Kuwait but all the GCC states.

[Al-Shahri] You announced recently that you do not fear the Iranian military power, when Iran continues from time to time to show off this power and is refusing to recognize UAE [United Arab Emirates] sovereignty over the three islands.

[Al-Sabah] I would like first to clarify that when I say that I do not fear Iranian arms, I believe that neither we nor Iran have reached the stage of possessing sophisticated technology and advanced weapons. I am happy to see our brothers in Iran spending those huge sums of money on armaments and wonder: Why all those weapons? And I hope, God willing, that their armaments and ours are for safeguarding independence and that arms will not be used as a means to intimidate one

another. We are happy with the meeting held in the UAE between the Iranian foreign minister and brother Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs. We are also happy that there will be another meeting between the two sides in Tehran to discuss the islands issue and resolve it peacefully. All I hope is that we do not find ourselves enemies of Iran one day. There is a recommendation from our leaders urging that relations between the GCC and Iran be good and based on noninterference in internal affairs. This is the foundation on which we build our policy, and I hope that a political solution acceptable to all parties will be found on the islands issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] It seems that Kuwait has not learned the lesson well in relation to decisiveness in implementing the sentences passed in terrorism cases. It is said that the experience of the 17 defendants convicted in the 1983 embassies case could be repeated now. Proof of this is that the State Security Court recently convicted 16 defendants in the case of collaboration with the Iraqi occupation and passed death sentences none of which has been implemented yet. The reason given for the delay has always been that the decision is in the amir's hands. So does the amir want to delay implementation, or does the government want to procrastinate?

[Al-Sabah] I do not talk about matters which occurred before the occupation, because present conditions are now different from the past. However, I would like to say that the amir will sign the death sentences when they are referred and submitted to him. You should know that the sentences are now all the same. They will be sent to the appeal court. No final verdict has been issued yet. Nor has any sentence been referred to his highness the amir, nor has he signed any sentence. Our judiciary is fair, and we give the defendant the right to defend himself. This is why it does not pass any sentence against anyone before it is sure the sentence is fair. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] You said in Vienna that reports of the possibility of a meeting between you and Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah were untrue, while the Yemeni minister said that the meeting had been postponed, not canceled. So what is the story? Are you ready for reconciliation with Yemen in the light of the conditions you announced in the National Assembly?

[Al-Sabah] My relationship with Basindwah is a personal relationship, and he did not hold any post in any government after the coup. When he said his cordial words about Kuwait, I thought it was incumbent on me to thank him for every word he said. And he contacted me by telephone to thank me for what I said about him. He said, "I will be in Vienna, and, God willing, I will see you there"—which means that there was no date fixed for us to meet. However, if I meet him in any forum, as I meet representatives of all the Arab states at the Arab League, including states where there is a great deal of hostility between us and them, we sit at one table and shake hands. But it does not mean that we should make a story of this or say that there had been an appointment and it was postponed. This is not the story. The story is exactly as I have told you.

[Al-Shahri] Would the "hostile states'" admission of their erroneous stance toward the Kuwaiti people and their compliance with the conditions you announced at the National Assembly be sufficient to restore relations with them?

[Al-Sabah] I defined the concept of the word restoration... not the restoration of relations. You should know that we have embassies in these states, including Jordan. Our embassy there has not been closed, and it does not mean the severance of relations. But at the same time we hope that there will be a commencement of relations and that what I mentioned in my statement will be the foundation on which to begin to build trust in this connection. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] Do you expect an imminent end to the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Sabah] That is a matter for the Iraqi people.

[Al-Shahri] Some reports said that the Baghdad regime believes that the Kuwaiti prisoners are a card in its hand which it should retain to bargain for concessions from Kuwait, like, for example, the restoration of relations. Do you accept this?

[Al-Sabah] By God, no one expects good from someone who bargains over human beings to achieve further ambitions. He is not human. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] It is reported in some Kuwaiti departments that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad supports and fuels the idea of separating the heir apparency from the premiership despite your position supporting Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah which we heard at the National Assembly. What is your opinion?

[Al-Sabah] First of all, I am happy that you have asked that question. I regret that we in this country should be the source of rumors. I am not interested in rumors. I am satisfied with what I believe in. What I believe in is what I said at the National Assembly. We have great confidence in the heir apparent and prime minister, whom his highness the amir honored with this capacity, as is his constitutional right. His highness the amir is also constitutionally entitled to choose the prime minister. This is why I want anyone making such statements in any department to understand that I am one of the supporters of my brother his highness in his capacity as prime minister as long as his highness the amir has vested that confidence in him. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shahri] There were political motives behind increasing your oil output. Is this true?

[Al-Sabah] I regret that this issue should be viewed as political. You should know that at the recent OPEC meeting Kuwait's quota was reduced to 1.6 million

barrels (a day). It was agreed to increase Kuwait's quota at the next meeting to the level of the quota of an Arab Gulf state [UAE]. But regrettably, this agreement was not implemented—which annoyed us, especially as we are in urgent need of increasing our output. Because our economic conditions prompt us to do so. We reduced our output so that OPEC would fulfill its promise and give us the quota we want. But when we obtained nothing, we voiced our reservations but emphasized that our aim is not to flood the oil market. Even the increase in our output will not harm others. It is up to the market. But the question is far removed from any political issue.

[Al-Shahri] And do you still have confidence in OPEC?

[Al-Sabah] We are one of the founders of OPEC, so we have full confidence in it.

Oman

PRC's Li Lanqing Defends Nuclear Project in Iran

PM1307105193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat; date not given]

[Text] At the end of his tour of the Gulf region Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing yesterday concluded a visit to Oman with talks with Sultan Qabus bin-Sa'id during which he conveyed an official invitation to visit China.

The Chinese official, who focused on trade and petroleum relations during his Gulf tour, which included Tehran, said that his country's contract to install a nuclear power station in Iran "does not affect the existing balance in the Gulf region and should not worry its states."

In an interview conducted with him, Li Lanqing emphasized to AL-HAYAH that Iran and China's signing of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons guarantees that the nuclear technology exported by China will not be converted for military purposes. Besides, the project will be set up under the supervision and observation of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The Chinese official denied that his country might have exceeded the international and U.S. demand that Iran be denied access to nuclear technology. He pointed out that the station falls within the area of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and that the United States itself exports this energy, so this criterion should apply to all.

Li Lanqing criticized the constant claims that his country exports large quantities of advanced weapons to the Middle East and the Gulf. He pointed out that "Chinese military sales to the region are limited and conducted in a manner which does not affect regional stability."

He stressed that the agreement signed recently with Iran to provide it with a 30-megawatt power station does not affect the existing balance in the Gulf region. He said that China and Iran, which have both signed the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, will adhere to this treaty, including the pledge not to convert the technology for nonpeaceful purposes. He stressed that there is no reason for the Gulf states to worry because of this nuclear project with China. This is because the nuclear station to be set up with Chinese help will be under IAEA supervision and monitoring.

He said: "All the major states such as France and Britain help other states in setting up nuclear power stations, because energy is now given priority in building the economies of states. Chinese cooperation in the field of nuclear power stations is purely commercial, economic, and technical, and there are no problems as a result of it. Generally speaking, during my visit to Iran I focused on the economic and trade spheres. I discussed two projects to build a subway system and a large fertilizer plant, because I do not consider myself specialized in nuclear stations or weapons."

He rejected the notion that China's signing of an agreement with Iran to install the station is a violation of the international warning, especially from the United States and the Western states, of the need to deny Tehran access to nuclear technology. He also denied that it could provoke tension between China and these states. He said: "There are no restrictions on the peaceful use of nuclear energy from international organizations or even the Western states like the United States, Britain, and France. Even Canada is marketing peaceful nuclear energy. This question differs from nuclear weapons, whose proliferation we firmly oppose. But the problem is that we should set one standard or criterion and apply it to all world states without discrimination. If the United States is entitled to export nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, China too is entitled to do so. What is certain is that China adheres to the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty.

The Chinese official criticized constant claims that his country exports huge quantities of advanced weapons to the Gulf states and the Middle East. He said that the Chinese Foreign Ministry had explained that "all these claims are absolutely baseless. Because the Chinese weapons trade with the region is limited and restricted by three conditions: First, China exports these weapons only to states which are not capable of producing weapons, and the aim in this case is to enable these states to defend themselves. The second condition is that Chinese arms sales to a particular country must not affect stability in the region in which this country is situated. The third condition is that arms deals and trade

must not be a reason or a means for interfering in the internal affairs of other states. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He stressed that "aside from the fact that Chinese arms sales are limited, they also fall within the framework of general trade only and are not aimed at gaining political influence. These sales are in general very limited compared with the arms exports of the other developed states."

Qatar

* Foreign Minister To Undertake Regional Tour

93P50227A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jul 93 p 5

[Report by Ya'qub al-Zuhayr]

[Text] Doha—The Qatari foreign minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, will begin a tour next week of a number of countries in the region beginning with Tehran, then Kuwait, Beirut, and Sanaa. It was decided that the Qatari foreign minister, in accordance with what informed sources affirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, will go to Tehran on Saturday at the invitation of Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, who visited Doha in a Gulf tour in the last week of May. Shaykh Hamad, during the visit, will meet with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and discuss with his Iranian counterpart the new conditions and developments that the area is witnessing, in addition to discussing the mutual relations between the two countries, which an Iranian diplomat described to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT as "excellent." From Tehran, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim will meet during his visit to Kuwait with its emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, with the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim, and with a number of other officials.

The third stage of the Qatari foreign minister's tour will be Beirut, which he will visit at the invitation of his Lebanese counterpart, Faris Buwayz. It will begin on 13 July and last for three days, during which he will meet with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Harawi and senior Lebanese officials.

Sanaa will be the last stage of the Qatari foreign minister's tour, where he will arrive on 16 July at the invitation of his Yemeni counterpart Muhammad Salim Basindwah and meet President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and other senior officials. An informed source affirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the state of Qatar, which currently maintains a charge d'affaires to represent it in Sanaa, has nominated 'Abdallah al-Muqaysib, who has held the post of minister plenipotentiary in the Qatari Embassy in London, to be its new ambassador in Yemen.

UN Envoy Promises Cooperation With Commission Head

JN1307133793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] New York, 13 Jul (INA)—Iraq has renewed a demand that the UN Security Council live up to its commitments to Iraq under Paragraph 22 of Resolution 678.

Iraq's UN representative, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, after talks with Security Council President David Hannay, said the Council should meet its obligations to Iraq, since Iraq has honored the bulk of that resolution's provisions.

He said Iraq and several Council members have more than once voiced reservations about the Council's failure to consider the fact that Iraq has actually implemented resolutions passed by the Council.

Regarding the nature of Iraq's position on the work of the Special Commission and the inspection teams that have been to Iraq, Hamdun said Iraq has always sought to resolve its problems with the Commission.

He emphasized Iraq will cooperate with Rolf Ekeus when he arrives in Baghdad. We will explain everything to him. We will extend professional cooperation uninfluenced by politics to the Special Commission, Hamdun emphasized.

Media Continue To Comment on UN 'Cameras Crisis'

Press Denounces UN Teams' Behavior

JN1307092993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi papers have denounced the exposed blackmailing methods used by the inspection teams of the UN Security Council's Special Commission. The papers are unanimous that the United States encourages these methods and uses them for evil purposes in order to harm Iraq and maintain the embargo imposed on its people. This embargo has resulted in shortages of food, medicine, and medical supplies. The papers stress that fabricating the recent uproar over the installation of cameras as well as the premeditated evil intentions behind this uproar seek to achieve sheer political objectives, namely, not to fulfill the Security Council's commitments toward Iraq, stipulated in Resolution 687.

AL-QADISIYAH, speaking for the Iraqi Defense Ministry, says: In a planned operation to confuse matters, the U.S. Administration fabricated the so-called cameras' crisis at the al-Yawm al-'Azim and al-Rafah sites. These are approved sites, according to the Special Commission. The U.S. Administration alleged that this is part of implementing Security Council Resolution 715, which concerns future monitoring of prohibited equipment.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The U.S. Administration and those riding on its bandwagon, such as the Special Commission head and the chairmen and members of the inspection teams, wanted to confuse Resolution 678 [as received] with Resolution 715 in order to circumvent the phase in which the Security Council has to fulfill its commitments to Iraq by lifting the unjust embargo after Iraq has already fulfilled all of its commitments in accordance with Resolution 687.

AL-QADISIYAH explains: The hostile alliance has continued to tighten the embargo and impose unjust conditions on Iraq in order to undermine its national sovereignty and harm its dignity and pride as Iraq is an example for the Arab nation, embodying the independent political decisionmaking. The paper adds: Iraq tried to explain to the special committees and the Security Council that it does not reject the so-called cameras' installation but wants to postpone it until after the Security Council fulfills its commitments to Iraq by lifting the unjust embargo. This is Iraq's natural right and was stipulated in Resolution 687 itself. However, these Iraqi efforts have been in vain, the paper adds.

AL-QADISIYAH continues: Despite the fact that Iraq has dismantled the equipment at the al-Yawm al-'Azim and al-Rafah sites, Mark Silver, head of inspection team No. 60, insisted on sealing these sites, departed Iraq in a theatrical way, and alleged that Iraq was in violation of Security Council Resolution 715, which concerns future monitoring. The paper points out that this fabricated crisis is part of the mechanism for implementing Resolution 687 and has nothing to do with Resolution 715, which concerns future monitoring procedures. Iraq did not reject the monitoring of prohibited material.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms: The United States and its agents in the UN inspection teams have turned the ban on using prohibited material into a ban on Iraq's legitimate industrial, civil, and peaceful development by launching a disinformation campaign and making inaccurate aggressive statements on the part of Clinton, Gore, and Christopher, who depicted the matter as a violation of Resolution 715.

AL-QADISIYAH points out that the flagrant threats to strike at Iraq as well as the disinformation imply evil intentions. The paper says: Iraq is familiar with all their falsehoods, in the same way as it was with all the bombs dropped on its sons during the unjust 30-state aggression and the first and second subsequent aggressions. Iraq is now confident that those who fabricated the feeble pretexts against it will not hesitate to strike once again.

AL-QADISIYAH explains: These evil ones are moving against Iraq motivated by their profound grudge and insistence on preventing Iraq's progress and national sovereignty on its land and in its airspace. Contrary to their allegations, these evil ones are not motivated by anything else. The paper stresses that the Iraqi people

will maintain their amazing steadfastness under President Saddam Husayn against all cowardly U.S. acts of aggression.

AL-'IRAQ says: The fabrication by inspection team No. 60 of an unjustified crisis on several feeble pretexts is the start of a new chapter of aggression to be carried out under cover of the Security Council and the legitimacy it enjoys.

AL-'IRAQ adds: The hostile and Zionist news media try to create much uproar in order to distort facts and divert attention from the basics of the new crisis. The paper points out that the letter of irrefutable facts which Iraq sent to the Security Council president confirms with tangible evidence that some parties within the United Nations, particularly within the Security Council and the Special Commission, do not want to acknowledge that Iraq has sincerely and positively dealt with the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687.

The paper said this simply means that retaining the embargo has ceased to have any justification and that keeping it in place runs counter to the most basic human values.

AL-'IRAQ adds: President Bill Clinton, Al Gore, and Warren Christopher, who have threatened new attacks on Iraq on behalf of the UN Security Council, are speaking in terms that reveal the supercilious and condescending attitude of the United States.

The United States, it said, is choosing the road it wishes the Security Council to take, with Warren Christopher issuing orders to Rolf Ekeus to play a predetermined role in line with a plan to escalate tension.

The paper stressed that with single-mindedness, constancy on purpose, and a determined stand, Iraq will stand its ground against any belligerent and extortionist attempts or any foolhardy acts of terror that the United States and its allies may be contemplating.

Iraq has handled all pages of the vicious plan and emerged from each encounter firmer and more patient.

The paper concluded by saying that the cooperation with which Iraq has approached Security Council resolutions—unfair as they are—cannot be called into question.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes: The arrogant American warnings to Iraq are indicative of an irresponsible, rash attitude.

The true reasons behind the new American stand lie in Bill Clinton's falling popularity ratings and the terrorist objective of launching a new world order using strong-arm and heavy-handed tactics.

West Accused of Distorting Policy

JN1307140093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1103 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] For more than a week, the Western-Zionist propaganda machine has been actively preoccupied with portraying the issue of installing monitoring cameras as a confrontation between Iraq and the United Nations. This is being done by distorting Iraq's position on the issue—by claiming Iraq rejects the installation of such cameras—or by deliberately confusing the U.S. Administration's position with that of the United Nations and the Special Commission. Accordingly, the listener or observer feels he is about to confuse the two positions and thus consider every statement by any U.S. official as an expression of the United Nations' position. Hence, we deem it our duty to explain one aspect and analyze another—explain Iraq's position on this issue and analyze the issue of confusing the UN and U.S. positions.

Iraq's position on the issue of installing monitoring cameras has been officially announced more than once. Iraq has said it does not object to the installation of cameras, but demands that this operation take place within the context cited in the Security Council resolutions. Iraq, as the Special Commission itself has admitted, has fulfilled the commitments stipulated in Resolution 687. This resolution says that when Iraq fulfills these commitments, the Special Commission will notify the Security Council so the latter can reverse the embargo decision.

Why, then, is there this blackout about Iraq's position? Why is there this forgery in presenting and replying to Iraq's position by the Western propaganda machine and by American officials at the highest level?

Answering these questions does not require great wisdom. Targeting Iraq is a policy adopted by the previous U.S. Administration and pursued by the current administration. The goal of throwing dust in the eyes is to foster an appropriate atmosphere for the continuation of the multifaceted aggression that America has been launching for more than three years against this country, in the interest of Zionism.

The goal behind confusing the positions of the United Nations and the United States is just as clear. As we have already said, it is meant to provide an atmosphere suitable for the continuation of aggression and the fabrication of pretexts for new direct military aggression against our country, this time by depicting the issue as a conflict between Iraq and the United Nations—a conflict exacerbated to such an extent that the United Nations is forced to deal a military blow to Iraq, employing U.S. forces.

Why all this? Whenever the United Nations or UN members take a step toward Iraq, America stirs up a storm, using its tools to prevent such actions. Why does

it do this? Does America fear Iraq so much that it cannot bear to see anyone exchange greetings with it or see a ray of hope that part of the suffering of its steadfast, patient people is about to end? What we know is that we are people of truth and that truth defeats falsehood.

'Dialogue' Sought, Not Bloodshed

JN1307145593 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 13, INA—Since the imposition of the unjust and unprecedented UN economic sanctions against Iraq, the country has been subjected to various attempts by the so-called UN inspection teams to paralyse its political will and violate its sovereignty. These inspection teams have become an instrument for the U.S. to carry out as open espionage detrimental to Iraq's security and peace, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER says.

The daily editorial has added that this is clearly demonstrated by the policy of agitation adopted by some of the UN inspection teams, especially when these teams are headed by U.S. nationals or citizens of countries which were parties to the aggression on Iraq. Since they are so, how can one expect these teams to be objective and confine themselves to the terms of the UN resolutions. Some UN inspection teams have a bad record of the behaviour. These teams have been insisting on destroying every installation that can be used for civilian purposes especially those that can be used for the production of pesticide. Thus these UN inspection teams are conniving with the U.S. and its allies to deprive Iraq of its technical advancement.

These teams are also playing a suspicious role of covering up some premeditated aggression by the enemies of Iraq by trying to create a deliberate crisis with Iraq in order to give a pretext to the U.S. Administration to launch a vicious aggression on Iraq between now and then.

Iraq has always maintained its readiness to implement all the terms of the UN resolutions despite the fact that it is convinced that these resolutions were dictated upon the UN Security Council by the U.S. Britain and France, the leading parties to the aggression on Iraq.

Yet these parties are trying to deal with the UN resolutions in a selective way. They are deliberately neglecting the UN obligations towards Iraq especially the partial lifting of the economic sanctions as a prelude to its total lifting, which is simply a U.S. dictate on the UN.

It is well known to the UN and its humanitarian bodies that the economic sanctions are claiming the lives of thousands of Iraqis, (?mostly civilians), the elderly and the sick, for Iraq is no longer able to buy the foodstuff and medicines necessary to sustain the lives of its people.

Therefore creating a deliberate crisis with Iraq by the UN inspection teams can only lead to more suffering by the Iraqi people and give a semblance of international legitimacy to U.S. recurrent aggressions on Iraq which aim at subdoing the Iraqi people.

In such hectic hostile acts, the U.S. and its allies seem to ignore so essential facts of life. Iraq has made it clear that it will never yield to aggression or blackmail and the Iraqis are even more prepared to make all sacrifices rather than surrender their sovereignty to world arrogance led by the U.S..

Iraqis anticipate more aggressions from imperialist powers because it refuses to become a subservient state especially when it has paid dearly in men and material to protect its sovereignty and maintains its independent policy.

However, Iraq has always been saying that it is prepared to conduct an open and objective dialogue with the parties concerned to solve all outstanding issues. The aim is to avert more bloodshed and destruction.

'Sanctions Must Be Lifted'

JN1307143793 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 13, INA—The English-language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER political editor has said in a commentary published today the escalation of the aggressive tone by the United States and its allies follows a game played by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission through his unexpected declaration from New York that he was sending his team to seal the two missile sites of al-Yawm al-'Azim and al-Rafah on allegation that Iraq has rejected the installation of remote cameras at the sites in implementation of Security Council Resolution 715.

The commentary maintains that what draws the attention here is that Ekeus has made public the task of his team before leaving for Iraq, which is not the usual way of visits to Iraqi sites. Such an unusual step was, however, accompanied by another unusual media fuss about this team through airing threats and bringing false anti-Iraq allegations, a thing that indicates the step as more political than procedural prior one to launching another aggression.

The editor added that the basis of Resolution 687 was that the whole Mideast region should be freed of mass destruction weapons and thus Iraq accepted it within such perspective. These weapons include biological and chemical weapons, as well as nuclear programmes and missiles of more than 150-km range.

Installing the surveillance cameras was not part of Resolution 687 which only stipulated inspection and destruction, while future monitoring would only follow the full implementation of Resolution 687, that is to say after lifting the sanctions whose issue is part and parcel of the same resolution. The monitoring of the Iraq's arms industry is only within the provisions of the Resolution 715.

The daily commentary added that Iraq had so far done all what had been asked of it in accordance with the UN resolutions, and it was high time this country should have received what it deserved of respect.

It said hence the sanctions must be lifted first and then Iraq must be respected as a sovereign country.

Foreign Aid Workers Warned of 'Revenge Strikes'

NC1407091593 Paris AFP in English 0818 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, July 14 (AFP)—U.N. and Kurdish authorities have warned of possible "revenge strikes" by Iraqi agents on foreign aid workers following last month's U.S. strike against Baghdad and the latest confrontation over weapons inspection.

The director of Kurdish security police in al-Sulaymaniyah, Fayik Tawfiq, told AFP: "According to our sources, Iraqi agents are planning some strikes against foreigners in revenge for the strike on Baghdad and the recent conflict (with the United Nations)."

U.N. officials said at a meeting with international aid organisations in al-Sulaymaniyah that foreigners should not use "critical roads" for the time being.

These roads run close to Iraqi checkpoints and the demarcation line between the Kurdish-held north and government controlled territory.

Aid workers told AFP they would have to use a mountain route instead of the main road from the west to the two biggest towns Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah.

The United States launched a cruise missile attack on Iraq's intelligence headquarters in Baghdad last month in retaliation for an alleged plot to assassinate former president George Bush, killing six civilians.

Iraq is also facing possible military strikes over its refusal to allow U.N. monitoring of missile test sites south of Baghdad.

Around 190 U.N. guards are deployed in Kurdish held territory to protect aid workers.

Ministry Official Seeks PRC Security Council Support

JN1307150493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Sa'd al-Faysal, Foreign Ministry under secretary, has said the visit he and his accompanying delegation paid to China was successful and opened wide horizons for bilateral cooperation.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY after his return from China, al-Faysal said he held talks with several Chinese officials who expressed a definite desire to promote bilateral relations on all levels. An atmosphere of frankness and understanding prevailed in the talks, he said.

Al-Faysal said he explained to Chinese officials the tragic repercussions of the unjust embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. He urged them to play their role as a permanent Security Council member state to end this injustice, which harms both the Iraqi people and the credibility of the United Nations.

We discussed Iraq's compliance with the requirements of Resolution 687, and highlighted U.S. attempts to cast doubt on Iraq's adherence to this resolution in order to keep the Security Council from considering the implementation of Paragraphs 21 and 22 of this resolution. These paragraphs concern the lifting of embargo, al-Faysal said.

The Iraqi official said Chinese officials responded favorably to the Iraqi delegation's views, and have not supported the embargo from the start. Chinese officials are working to lift the embargo, he added.

Asked by the INA correspondent about China's position on the treacherous second aggression, al-Faysal said: During their meetings with the Iraqi delegation, Chinese officials emphasized their sympathy with Iraq in the face of this aggression, and regretted the civilian casualties. Moreover, the Chinese Government issued a statement on 29 June expressing China's profound concern with that aggression.

Ramadan Says Country Seeks 'Dialogue, Negotiations'

JN1307170893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] al-Basrah, 13 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has stressed that Iraq wants to open dialogue and negotiations with all world countries, proceeding from its responsibility to stop the bloodshed of its innocent sons and to deprive the rancorous enemies of the opportunity to encroach on its sovereignty, security, and stability. He said the evil aggressors create hostile circumstances and escalate the situation in order to carry out new military aggression against Iraq.

During a meeting with al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud, during his visit today to the city of al-Basrah, Ramadan said Iraqis, who are fully aware of the American-Zionist plot, have become firmer and more determined to defend the homeland.

The vice president is visiting al-Basrah to discuss the administrative, municipal, and development services rendered to the sons of the governorate.

Senior Officials Cable Saddam on 17-30 July Anniversary

JN1307192893

[Editorial Report] During its major newscasts on 13 July, Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic carried cables from senior Iraqi officials to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn marking the 25th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution, which brought the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to power in Iraq.

Within its 1030 GMT newscast, Baghdad radio carried the five-minute "text" of a cable from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], to Saddam Husayn on the occasion. 'Izzat Ibrahim's cable begins by extolling the "great national revolution" and its achievements in Iraq. He says: "Under your historic leadership, and with your Arab will and faithful spirit, we achieved, praise be to God, victory over all our enemies in all the battles. The enemies—the Zionists, the Americans, and small agents—were defeated by the power of the daring Iraqi truth; and all their mean attempts to assassinate the Iraqi awakening were foiled, disappointed, and humiliated." He adds that Iraq triumphed in all battles, including "the great Mother of Battles". Ibrahim concludes his cable by praising the Iraqis and their leadership and congratulating Saddam on this occasion.

The radio then carried within the same newscast the eight-minute "text" of a cable Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the RCC and vice president, sent to Saddam on the revolution anniversary. Ramadan's cable begins by greeting Saddam Husayn and congratulating him "on the 25th anniversary of the white revolution, the 17-30 July revolution."

Ramadan then recalls the days that preceded the revolution and the struggle of the Ba'thists to save Iraq and build "the new Iraq". He reviews the achievements of the revolution and "the role of the symbol of the Iraqis, leader Saddam Husayn, in attaining these achievements". He adds that "the colonialists and enemies of humanity, freedom, and progress feel that the Ba'th revolution in Iraq is different from the other revolutions in the developed countries. They feel this revolution has really gone through the red light and crossed the lines drawn by them. So, they escalated their rancor, plotted, and aimed aggression at it from inside and out in an attempt to uproot it. However, their attempts failed, thanks to the Iraqis' will and the determination of heroic leader Saddam Husayn and his wise and courageous leadership. America and its agents manipulated the Khomeyni regime to attack Iraq, thinking that they could obstruct the revolution." He adds that "America was forced to lead the aggression by itself. So, it mobilized more than 30 states to move against Iraq alone." He says: "The Iraqis achieved in the great duel, in the glorious Mother of Battles, a historic victory not only for them, but also for all the Arabs and humanity, because it is a duel for the sake of justice, freedom, and independence against the forces of injustice, infidelity, and aggression." Ramadan adds: "The Iraqis' celebrations on the 25th anniversary of their giant revolution—under the circumstances of the siege and the continuation of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against them—are a direct response to those scoundrel enemies who cannot prevent the Iraqis from enjoying themselves or deprive Iraq's children, women, youth, and men of the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of their glorious revolution and happy occasions." He then says: "Your sons, the glorious Iraqis, are swords in the hands of their leader to continue the march of construction and jihad, very confident in their splendid victory over their infidel enemies, armed with faith and insistence on steadfastness and on challenging the enemies." Ramadan concludes by saying "victory is ours, God willing."

The radio carried during its 1400 GMT newscast the six-minute "text" of a cable Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf sent to Saddam on the 17-30 July revolution anniversary. Ma'ruf's cable praises the prominent role of Saddam Husayn in the revolution, his achievements in building "the new and strong Iraq that contributes—through an effective role—to regional stability, prosperity, and security." He adds that the Iraqis' bravery and faith foiled "the Atlantic-Zionist aggression." He says "no force on Earth" can undermine the will of the Iraqis, adding that Iraq today "represents a living example of national and Islamic resistance against tyrants and a war of starvation, blackmail, and terrorism led by the forces of new colonialism and backed by world Zionism."

The radio carried, during its 1600 GMT newscast, the approximately six-minute "text" of a cable Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi sent to Saddam on the revolution anniversary. The prime minister's cable says the Iraqi people "will foil all enemy schemes, one after another," adding that the new attack on Baghdad was "evidence of their disappointment and failure." He then highlights the role of the Ba'th revolution in the life of Iraq and the Arabs.

Information Minister Comments on Extremism, Terrorism

JN1207172593 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 12. INA—The minister of information and culture has said that extremism and terrorism phenomenon is not an individual phenomenon, but rather it is a collective one.

Commenting on a report by the Permanent Committee of Arab Information on "Arab information role vis-a-vis extremism and terrorism" Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said the phenomenon tackled by the report and which is an alien to the Arab community is an organised collective phenomenon and not a loose one.

The minister added that as the committee indicated, the terrorism phenomenon cannot be studied away from current international Arab and local social, economic

and political status and attempts by foreign forces to hegemonise and control peoples' wealth, in the forefront of which is the Zionist movement which is based on terrorism and racialism.

Mr. Hammadi went on to say that as long as the international, Arab and local social, economic and political situations have provided a potential breeding ground for this organised collective phenomenon, it is imperative for us to diagnose and analyse these conditions to discover the roots of this phenomenon and the conditions that helped it to grow.

He added that the said phenomenon can be described outwardly as being a part of a trend that refuses or rejects some or all the common social and moral principles and concepts and consequently rejects the social structure represented by the state and its organs and laws.

The minister elaborated that conditions and factors that helped this strange phenomenon to grow in the Arab community differ from one Arab country to another, noting that among these factors are poverty and feelings of frustration and hatred ignited by uneven distribution of wealth. Western cultural invasion with all its values, and corrupted and immoral social, political and economic habits and values.

The minister added that the situation was further worsened by the flexibility of the information and culture organs in dealing with these values.

Furthermore, a maladministration, bribery and embezzlement promoted and encouraged by administration systems that serve an elite group in the community have contributed widely to the growth of the said phenomena, said Mr. Hammadi, indicating that the situation was further compounded by the inability of the popular and political organizations to mobilize people, raise their awareness and protect them against distorted idiological and political trends.

The minister went on to say that the said phenomenon is nourished by a number of foreign governments and countries who try feverishly to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab countries, noting that these foreign governments try to destabilize the inner situation of these countries as a preliminary step towards controlling and hegemonising them.

Moreover, Zionist strategy which is based on disintegrating and dividing the Arab Islamic community along ethnic and religious lines to weaken it has helped this phenomenon to grow.

To combat terrorism and extremism, the minister said we have to convert it to a non-collective one and in that case it will be easier for the specialised security system to handle and treat this phenomenon, indicating that this strategy cannot be shouldered and implemented by information alone. Rather it has to be carried out collectively by information, cultural, political, educational, social and economic sectors.

The minister added that information should avoid direct preaching which lacks information and logical analyses and conclusions, indicating that the committee has called for adopting traditional methods to confront and combat this phenomenon by holding seminars and symposiums to raise the awareness of people.

Mr. Hammadi elaborated that the committee has neglected the role of the cultural and educational sectors, saying that we cannot protect youth through seminars or an article or a research, but through a comprehensive programme based on solid base.

He added that Iraq has recently prepared a plan to teach the holy Koran in primary, intermediate and secondary schools as of the next academic year, 1993-94. Some ID [Iraqi Dinar] 105 million has been allocated to cover the expenditure of the plan, said the minister, noting that Iraq needs some 10 million dollars to import papers and other printing materia, to print books.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Cuban Communist Party Official

JN1307150893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Professor Rodrigo Cambras Alvarez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and head of the Arab-Cuban Friendship Society.

Tariq 'Aziz emphasized the strength of ties between the two friendly countries and peoples and praised the stand taken by the people and government of Cuba in support of Iraq in its confrontation of unjust imperialistic aggression. This stand, he said, demonstrates Cuba's nationalistic, independent trend despite the conspiracies and the U.S. blockade imposed on it.

Dr. Cambras praised the courageous heroic stand of the Iraqi people and their leader Saddam Husayn to face aggressors and foil their evil conspiracies, stressing Cuba's interest in maintaining and improving bilateral ties to serve common objectives and interests.

Assembly Speaker Meets Cuban Official

JN1307181393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said the crises and false pretexts fabricated by the United States and its allies are intended to distract world public opinion from their 27 June aggression on the city of Baghdad.

During his meeting with Professor Rodrigo Cambras Alvarez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the Cuban-Iraqi Friendship Society, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said the U.S. aggression was unjustified and was not based on any international law, charter, or legitimacy.

He said the American-Zionist-imperialist aggression on Iraq continues because this country adheres to its national and pan-Arab principles and to its wise leadership, led by President Saddam Husayn, and struggles against all forms of imperialist hegemony over nations aspiring for freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

Prof. Cambras Alvarez expressed the solidarity of the Cuban people and leadership with the friendly Iraqi people in their confrontation of the forces of evil and aggression, stressing that the visit will strengthen friendly and brotherly ties between the two countries in the service of the two peoples' interests.

Cambras Alvarez extended an official invitation from the Cuban parliament to his Iraqi counterpart to visit Cuba this year to promote relations between the two parliamentary bodies.

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih received the text of the statement the Cuban parliament issued condemning the new U.S. aggression against innocent civilians in Baghdad and stressing that this act of crime violated the basic principles of human rights and international law.

Israeli-Saudi-Kuwaiti Intelligence Body Said Formed

JN1307143293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—Israeli officials have asked Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to expedite formation of a tripartite information and intelligence organization in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf. The three parties—Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait—agreed to form this organization after the Gulf war. Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territory said David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry; the director of the intelligence apparatus; and the chief of military intelligence have asked Saudi and Kuwaiti security officers, who graduated from an Israeli Mosad school last week, to expedite work to set up offices for the tripartite intelligence network in Cyprus, Kuwait, and Tel Aviv in order to begin actual work following the completion of the theoretical and practical training of the first cadres in Tel Aviv.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper cites Palestinian sources as saying that 20 Saudi and Kuwaiti security officers graduated from an Israeli intelligence school. Those officers were among 50 officers from a number of regional states, including Turkey and Iran.

The sources said the graduates received training on how to plant agents in other countries, set off explosives, and carry out assassinations. They were trained on espionage methods, monitoring political forces and activities, fabricating rumors, and spreading allegations.

In another development, the Palestinian leaders said Tel Aviv has again dispatched to Kuwait the MA'ARIV correspondent, Tamara, to continue collecting information on Palestinians who worked in Kuwait and to make copies of their files at the Kuwaiti security organ in order to feed Shin Net, the Zionist intelligence information department. These leaders said 450 Palestinians, who used to work in Kuwait, were arrested in the occupied territory. They said the Israeli authorities confronted those Palestinians with detailed information about their national and militant positions and their methods of supporting the Palestinian revolution and the intifadah of the stone-throwing children.

BABIL Editorial: U.S. Bogging Down in Somalia Sands

JN1307144193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has denounced the ugly carnage in which more than 100 Somalis were killed, saying the United States has started to bog down in the sands of a new Vietnamese war.

In its editorial today, the paper says defenseless people were decimated because they rejected foreign invasion.

The paper notes the difficult, embarrassing situation in which the Clinton administration has once again put the United States, after the bitter, rough Vietnam experience. Yesterday's massacre generated a wave of violent demonstrations that swept through Somalia against the foreign invaders, leaving four foreign reporters dead.

BABIL sheds light on recent clashes in Somalia, climaxing in yesterday's events. This unambiguously means all the Somali people are engaged in a struggle against foreign invasion.

The paper says U.S. troops used the slogan of combating hunger to enter into Somalia, noting how things recently developed after the real objective of the U.S. invasion was revealed. Even if they wear the uniforms of other nations, U.S. troops are now up against the rebellious Somali people defending their independence.

Concluding, BABIL wonders if Clinton will be able to get the United States off the hook of the Somali predicament. Will Clinton redress the situation in Somalia the same way he did when he escaped military service during the Vietnam dilemma?

AL-JUMHURIYAH Says G-7 Summit Resolutions 'Stink'

JN1307080393 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Jul 93 p 2

["G-7 Summit Resolutions and Polluted Blood" by Lutfi al-Khayyat]

[Text] The seven industrialized nations summit concluded yesterday, with the vampires living off peoples' blood agreeing to intensify their drive to loot and bring

about slow death to the impoverished nations so that their economies remain preponderant.

It it small wonder the resolutions passed by the summit have made no reference to the ambitions and aspirations of the poor south; the Great Seven focused their attention on ironing out their own differences and addressed such issues as their economic rivalries, especially in the area of market accessibility of auto and electronics industries between Japan and the United States.

The richest nations paid no attention to worldwide joblessness, its underlying causes, and the millions of poor workers being laid off. Nor did they give any thought to relieving unemployment and famine brought on by the preference for machines rather than cheap labor. These leaders are only interested in seeking ways and means to enhance their own economies and trade, never mind the statistic of 1,000 million jobless around the world or the $1,600 million debt owed to the International Monetary Fund.

The great seven failed to devote any time to the plight of the destitute around the world who have hit the 850 million mark and are projected to top 1,200 million by the year 2,000.

If the great seven had their way, they would go as far as waging war against the Third World. It seems, though, that the old ways have been set aside, with the emergence of a new strategy advocating the right of the Western north to live at the expense of the south. The rich in the northern hemisphere, who are filled to satiety, account for 24 percent of the world's population and control 85 percent of the global resources. In contrast, the poor of the south make up 76 percent of the world's population and have access to a mere 15 percent of its resources. This means that the affluent world led by the great seven has the sole preoccupation of seeking ways and means to double its financial, economic, and industrial assets to ensure the Third World's continued political and economic dependence. Whenever Third World nations attempt to break loose of unfair trade terms set by the West, they are beleaguered by all kinds of coercion and subjugation, since they are perceived as pests that the north would be better off without.

Third World nations cannot expect more insolent or hideous resolutions. It is no longer surprising that the north should go public in its contempt of the south using abuse, terror, and open theft, and even laying networks of polluted blood to the Third World and drawing off their good blood.

The Third World individual is being ripped off in the name of human rights. He is being denied his very livelihood. The last decade of the 20th century is likely to see the industrialized nations ganging up on the Third World nations with the aim of enslaving and bringing them to heel and then resuscitating colonial rule. American militias will then have an open season throughout the globe. As for other nations, they may as well be trapped like mice waiting to be used as guinea pigs by the American-European West.

The industrialized nations summit resolutions stink, especially seen against the backdrop of President Clinton's order for American missiles to hit Baghdad on the eve of the conference. Did Clinton want to flex his muscles before the leaders of the industrialized nations? Did the "cowboy" mean to prove himself vis-a-vis such a tough opponent as Iraq and thus impress and wrest concessions from his fellow terrorists in the gang of seven?

The G-7 summit proves to the Third World nations that the industrial nations are only interested in sucking their blood and stealing their resources—something we must resist with all the strength that we can muster.

Christopher Visit Expected in Wake of Ross Tour

TA1407073393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The U.S. peace team is leaving Israel for Washington today to brief Secretary of State Warren Christopher about the results of their meetings in the region. Dennis Ross and his team spent their last evening in Israel holding additional talks with Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli team for negotiations with the Palestinians. It is assessed in Israel that the U.S. peace team will recommend that Secretary Christopher come to Israel to promote the consolidation of the Israeli-Palestinian document of principles. If this is indeed the case, Christopher is slated to arrive in Israel in a week, around 20 August [month as heard]. Another possibility is that he will arrive at the end of the month.

What is the goal of Secretary Christopher's visit? Jerusalem elements who spoke with the U.S. peace team heard from Dennis Ross that the purpose of the team's shuttle trip was in fact to prepare Christopher's visit to the region. In the Americans' opinion, the level of talks in the Middle East should be upgraded, and Christopher's arrival should be viewed as part of this trend. The Americans added that during a visit here, Christopher may try to initiate a high-level meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and other regional leaders.

Until then, Jerusalem wishes to sum up Dennis Ross' trip. Despite the optimistic atmosphere at the end of this trip, no progress can be pointed to. After enlisting the pressure of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Persian Gulf states, the Americans managed to get the Palestinians to view the U.S. bridging paper as a basis for negotiations, but the substantive questions are still disputed. The peace team had attempted different formulations regarding the issues of Jerusalem and the autonomy's territorial jurisdiction, but to no avail for the time being. Still, as far as is known, Dennis Ross and his peace team believe that the gaps are bridgeable, and that a visit to the region by the secretary of state can help bridge them. Until the visit takes place the peace team will try to work out agreed proposals for modifications in the U.S. paper on the basis of remarks made by both Israelis and Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Peres Assesses Results of U.S. Team's Visit

TA1407061993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Zohar] Did you hear anything from your U.S. counterpart about his intention to arrive in Israel next week or toward the end of the month?

[Peres] I do not think he has received such a recommendation yet, so nobody can have any details regarding this issue.

[Dan] Syria is reportedly evincing optimism. Do you have any assessment regarding the source of this optimism?

[Peres] I do not know. I cannot say that there is a substantial change in the Syrian position. Syria convinced the U.S. team—as we heard from them—that it has indeed opted for a strategy of peace and is determined to pursue this strategy. However, apparently there has been no significant change in Syria's immediate positions.

[Zohar] So are you not optimistic?

[Peres] I am always optimistic. I am only reporting what I have heard.

[Zohar] Is there any room for optimism on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks, such as would make way for the arrival of Secretary of State Christopher in Israel?

[Peres] I think that what we need now is what is known in modern political jargon as creativity. We have made progress, but there is nothing to encourage the sides to advance at a quicker pace. If the talks remain tied up, I think the argument between the sides will only be exacerbated. The main difficulty is encountered in the sphere of definitions, because they do not help bridge the gaps between the two sides as much as they are aimed at convincing one's own party that one is faithful to one's own positions. This is particularly glaring in the issue of Jerusalem: I do not think there is any chance that the Arabs and Israel would agree on the issue of Jerusalem. Our position on this issue is clear, unchanging, and unanimous. The Arab side has its own demands. Therefore there is no point in standing daggers in hand and arguing with each other. As far as the issue of Jerusalem is concerned, the best thing would be for the Arabs to agree to live in disagreement. I think, however, that progress can be made on other issues.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, it has been constantly said that Christopher's visit to the region hinges on the results of Dennis Ross' visit. You yourself admitted that the results were meager. What, then, will Christopher be able to achieve that Ross could not?

[Peres] I think that the U.S. team headed by Dennis Ross gathered additional ideas that it will have to digest in order to see whether the new ingredients can offer new directions. I assume, therefore, that the process of analysis and clarification will take some time. We all agree, however, that this time must not be wasted, because any

vacuum would endanger the continuation of the negotiations. The very fact that the dialogue is continuing contributes to the peace process, and such a dialogue also raises new ideas.

[Zohar] The U.S. team left the impression that they might recommend upgrading the level of the talks. Do you think this would facilitate the process?

[Peres] The upgrading of the level of talks requires a pan-Arab agreement. So far the Syrians have not participated in the multilateral talks, and they have not evinced any inclination to upgrade the level of talks. If it was up to us, I assume we would consider this option.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, we have heard that 'Arafat has reneged on the statements made over the last few days, according to which direct contacts have been held between PLO officials and the Israeli Government. Has Israel's embarrassment subsided in the wake of this retraction?

[Peres] I was not embarrassed for one moment, so nothing has changed for me.

Comments on Palestinian 'Obstinacy'

TA1307164993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The U.S. peace team has ended the current round of the talks, but the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians persist. The bones of contention remain Jerusalem and the autonomy's jurisdiction. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Dennis Ross and his colleagues will leave the Middle East tomorrow. Until then, they will hold a series of meetings, including one with Elyaqim Rubinstein. The U.S. peace team today presented the formulations, including those of the Palestinians, to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and gaps persist.

[Peres] The current obstinacy concerning Jerusalem and the jurisdiction simply does not play a beneficial role. We must go back and discuss the more practical and realistic elements of the negotiations.

[Raz] Ross and his team relayed to Syria Jerusalem's message about its responsibility for the tension in the northern border in a very clear manner, but they did not return with any response. After all, Syria is in no rush to admit that war materiel passes through its territory. However, they did bring their impressions about the future of the process.

[Peres] They came back with the impression that Syria has made a strategic decision in favor of peace. However, the Syrians have not yet changed their positions, and the absence of a change hinders progress in the negotiations. All in all, the Americans believe that all the sides realize that there is no alternative to the process, but that a way must be found to surmount the obstacles that have accumulated.

[Raz] So, despite the optimistic atmosphere that may have prevailed among the U.S. team, there is no progress yet.

Foreign Minister Peres believes that the U.S. team will recommend that Secretary of State Warren Christopher come to the region. Such a recommendation would mean that Ross and his colleagues conclude that the peace process has a chance. [end recording]

Ministries Said Differing on Peace Strategy

TA1407045993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] During the talks with the U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross, it transpired that the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office are evincing different attitudes toward the peace process. Foreign Minister Peres and his aides are proposing to formulate a general and vague document of principles, and then to proceed with the early transference of authorities to the Palestinians in the territories.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office maintain, on the other hand, that it is essential to start out by formulating a detailed document of principles, in order to avoid any misunderstandings in future.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Americans believe they can bridge the gaps in definitions between Israel and the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Peres assesses that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in the Middle East. The U.S. team headed by Dennis Ross will leave our region today.

Newspaper Details Government's Contacts with PLO

TA1407140593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 p A1

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Text] A senior Israeli political source yesterday said that the man who handled the contacts with high-ranking PLO officials on behalf of the prime minister was neither a Knesset member [MK] nor a cabinet minister.

The source claimed the man was a Labor party member who had formerly held senior government service positions. He also speaks Arabic. The contacts with the PLO officials, acting on behalf of Yasir 'Arafat, were established during one of the previous rounds of the multilateral talks.

The contacts, which began approximately two months ago, were gradually institutionalized with the approval and blessing of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. At the end of each meeting, the Israeli representative sent a written report to the prime minister. Rabin also gave him oral briefings before some of the meetings. The

political source yesterday said up until now, the Israeli contact and the PLO officials had held five or six meetings.

There were three senior PLO officials among the Palestinians who participated in the meetings: Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser; Bassam Abu-Sharif; and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, the head of the PLO's information department. The meetings were held in Egypt, the United States, and other locations.

Among the issues discussed in the meetings were the concept of "Gaza First"—the implementation of autonomy in the Gaza Strip, as well the points of disagreement in the negotiations with the Palestinian delegation, such as the matter of Jerusalem and the autonomy's jurisdiction.

When asked by HA'ARETZ yesterday, the man himself refused any comment on his alleged contacts with the PLO.

Arab MK Comments on Contacts With PLO Officials

TA1307164093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah says that from talks he held today with senior PLO members it transpires that they believe it will soon be possible to sign an agreement of principles which would bring about a breakthrough in the negotiations. MK Darawshah told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that PLO officials believe the agreement will be signed following the visit of Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region. He added that the PLO leadership is divided over the question whether they should make public details on contacts held by senior Israeli officials with PLO leaders.

SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK Yosef 'Azran says his party will exert all its weight in the coalition to prevent direct talks with the PLO. He claims that direct talks with Yasir 'Arafat amount to a de facto recognition in a Palestinian state.

Minister Favors Palestinian-Jordanian Confederation

TA1307181593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Minister Amnon Rubinstein of Meretz calls for including in the Israeli-Palestinian document of principles a declaration that establishes a confederation between the Palestinian entity and Jordan as the accepted goal of the negotiations on the permanent arrangements. In his opinion, Jordan and the PLO's decision to set up joint committees to formulate a plan to establish such a confederation is a positive step that may promote the chances for peace.

Pressure Seen Behind Jibril Ouster From Lebanon

TA1407135293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpt] The Lebanese prime minister's move ordering Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to exit Lebanon at once came in the wake of Israeli pressure. According to political elements in Jerusalem, the Lebanese Government was advised that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would be forced to operate in Lebanon unless steps were taken to prevent fatal incidents, similar to those which occurred last week. The first required step was unequivocally ordering Jibril to leave Lebanon. Israel cautioned that if Jibril did not leave the country, the IDF would attack Lebanese targets at once, jeopardizing local residents' lives. [passage omitted]

Minister on Syrian Role in Situation in Lebanon

TA1407110093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Israel has relayed messages to various countries around the world regarding Syria's responsibility for the deterioration of the security situation in southern Lebanon. This was stated by Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur during a visit to the Galilee Panhandle today. According to Tzur, the Syrians turn a blind eye to the terrorist activity by Hizballah and the Jibril organization, and Syria even allows the transfer of arms from Iran to Lebanon via Damascus. [In a report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 14 July, Minister Tzur is quoted as adding that "the government has taken time out to decide which measures to adopt in order to guarantee security in the north. In his opinion, it is necessary to launch a reaction which will deter the terrorists, but will not cause escalation. Also, as the peace process continues, the Syrians will be required to supply unequivocal clarifications and to conduct themselves in a manner which will guarantee the safety of Israel's northern settlements."]

Syria is well aware that situations that are also dangerous to Syria itself sometimes develop in southern Lebanon, a senior defense establishment source has told IDF Radio. In a talk with our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik this morning, the source said that Israel reserves the right to act against any element that acts against it, including Iran, Syria, Lebanon, the Lebanese population, and the terrorist organizations themselves.

Commentary Reviews Damascus-Tehran Relations

TA1307150993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jul 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gay Bekhor: "Syria Will Profit"]

[Text] There is doubt whether Syria initiated the recent tension along the northern border. After all, both Hizballah and Ahmad Jibril's organizations operate today in Lebanon under Iranian—not Syrian—auspices, considerations, and guidance.

Due to Syria's special relations with Iran, the two organizations, mainly the Shiite Hizballah, enjoy a sort of immunity in their operations in Lebanese al-Biqa' and the south, while Damascus is being quite passive in this relationship: neither helping nor disturbing. Iranian arms do get to Hizballah via the Damascus Airport, but Hizballah has recently been purchasing large quantities of arms from the Lebanese militias.

Controlled by the 'Alawites—a minority often charged with being non-Muslim—Damascus has never been particularly sympathetic of Hizballah's religious struggle. Nevertheless, because it is backed by a powerful protector in Tehran, the Syrians allow the Shiite organizations to operate freely, mainly against Israel. Syria considers such operations desirable because they push Israel out of its last stronghold in Lebanon and work as a bargaining chip, applying political pressure on Israel in the bilateral negotiations.

The special Damascus-Tehran relations have two central reasons. First, it provides Syria with strategic depth for a rainy day, in case its pro-West policy should fail. The two countries are also anti-Iraqi and are located on both sides of Iraq. Second, thanks to its connections with Iran, Syria is immune to Muslim subversion.

Today, Syria is the only Middle East country without a prominent Islamic problem. Naturally, the Syrian iron fist has a lot to do with this, and, even more so, the al-Hama precedent, in which President Hafiz al-Asad eliminated 20,000 rebellious fundamentalists at the beginning of the previous decade. Relations with Iran—the country exporting political Islam to Arab countries—are profitable, as well.

Recently, however, and mainly since the peace process has started, relations with Iran are beginning to be a burden. Iran is an outcast on the international scene. Anyone identifying or associating with it becomes contaminated, as well. Syria finds it hard to demand that the United States strike it off the list of countries that support terrorism while it maintains a strategic pact with Iran. Also, Iran and Syria have recently found themselves in a direct confrontation on another issue: Tehran opposes any Syrian or Egyptian military involvement in the deployment of the Gulf defense system.

Iran's relations with Syria parallel relations between Syria and Hizballah: Any misunderstanding between Syria and Iran is immediately translated into a crisis with Hizballah.

Syria is unsatisfied with Hizballah's excessive freedom of action in south Lebanon. It is concerned that instability in south Lebanon may send shock waves in all of Lebanon at a time when Lebanon's government and regime are Syria's greatest asset in the region. It is true that, at Iran's behest, Hizballah has sent representatives to parliament, but it continues to maintain its military power in Beirut and south Lebanon and constitutes potential for instability.

The Shiite organization is perfectly aware of Syrian dissatisfaction with it and is concerned that Syria may cut off its link to Iran. Paradoxically, a possible Israeli military strike against Hizballah could solve Syria's dilemmas and would probably be received with hidden satisfaction. In the same way, Syria viewed the destruction of the PLO's military and political infrastructure in south Lebanon in 1982 with satisfaction—until its own army was attacked by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. At that time, Israel served its own interests by stopping the PLO katyusha attacks on the Galilee and by weakening the PLO's political power, but Syria also benefited.

The present-day scenario is similar: A possible Israeli strike against Hizballah could also solve Syria's basic problems vis-a-vis the fundamentalist Shiite organization. Emasculating Hizballah would serve a clear Syrian and Lebanese interest because it would strengthen Lebanese sovereignty. At the same time, Syria can offer Iran the excuse that the Israeli strike was inevitable.

It is a matter of fact that so far Syria has not intervened in any Israeli action against Hizballah in Lebanon, even when the Israeli bombardments were aimed at Hizballah bases in the Lebanese al-Biqa', an area controlled by Syria.

At the same time, such an Israeli strike should be conducted within the limits of two parameters: It must not harm Syrian targets or interests that Syria deems vital, and it must be of limited scope. An all-out war against Hizballah could push Syria into a problematic stance, in view of heavy Iranian pressure that could compromise its neutrality.

Prime Minister Briefs Cabinet on Ross, Palestinian Talks

JN1307151893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali this morning. Dr. al-Majali started the session by briefing cabinet members on the overall talks held yesterday with the U.S. delegation visiting Amman as part of a regional tour to advance the peace negotiations.

Dr. al-Majali also briefed the cabinet about the results of the talks held by the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee. He briefed them on the talks he held with the fraternal Palestinian side to the committee meetings. Dr. al-Majali expressed satisfaction with the complete understanding attained and the agreement reached on the outline of the committee's basic tasks, on its initial action plan, and on the formation of six subcommittees.

The cabinet also discussed a host of domestic issues and adopted the appropriate decisions regarding them.

Prime Minister Urges Participation in Upcoming Elections

JN1307170393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has urged citizens to use their constitutionally guaranteed right to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections and to register their names in voter lists during the time period specified for this.

In reply to a question from the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY during a visit he made today to the Ministry of Interior, where he attended part of a Higher Public Safety Committee meeting, the prime minister said competent agencies of the Ministry of Interior have prepared all the requirements to facilitate procedures and ease the burdens of citizens during the processes of voter registration, issuance of voter cards, and voting.

Dr. al-Majali, who also inspected the Data Center and the Operations Theater at the Ministry of Interior, said preparations have been made to use advanced technology to conduct the elections and to ensure precision in the election process. This will help the competent agencies take appropriate measures rapidly. All this makes us, he added, feel comfortable about the soundness of the measures taken to prepare for the upcoming elections.

The prime minister urged all citizens who have so far not registered their names in the election lists to do so, especially since the Ministry of Interior has moved up by one month the date set earlier for the start of efforts to register unregistered voters. The new date for the start of this procedure is 1 August, he noted. This is meant to ease citizens' burdens and to encourage them to exercise their voting rights, Dr. al-Majali said.

The prime minister emphasized the repeated calls by His Majesty King Husayn urging citizens to use their legal and constitutional rights in the election process, as well as the urgent appeals he has made stressing that they should not demonstrate a passive attitude while, at the same time, demanding freedom, democracy, and a participatory system.

Daily Urges 'Genuine Peace' Based on Justice, Legitimacy

JN1307180493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jul 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Genuine Peace or a Temporary Settlement?"]

[Text] Peace cannot be achieved by just preventing war or by maintaining the status of the victor and the vanquished. Such a peace will lead to fiercer war and longer instability. It seems after 10 rounds of negotiations that the United States and Israel are seeking a peace that only wards off war and maintains an Israeli victory and an Arab defeat.

The genuine peace, which no one except us seems eager to maintain, is one based on justice and international legitimacy. It can only be protected if Arabs approve it now and are able to approve it in the future. Every time the cause of peace between the Arabs and Israel is mentioned, His Majesty King Husayn describes it as one the generations can accept, stick to, and defend. Until now, despite all the meetings that began with the one in Madrid, and all the efforts at all levels, Israel has not moved a single step toward a peace that our generation and future generations can accept and on which our regional and international efforts and those of the international community should concentrate.

Dennis Ross has come to our region. We know he is one of the prominent officials working on an Arab-Israeli settlement. We know there is a difference between this settlement, which the United States is seeking, and the peace we are pursuing. This U.S. official exercised great influence on Washington's decisions throughout the Bush administration. He is still influencing the Clinton administration. We are sure he played a large role in formulating the U.S. working paper that was rejected by the Palestinians because it offered much less than what was offered by the Israelis themselves. It was erroneously believed a working paper written in the English language would be better than one written in Hebrew. Any of them would deny Palestinian rights, Arab rights, and the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy.

The tour by Ross may lead to the resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations. We do not want efforts to concentrate only on the issue of continuing these negotiations and moving from one round to another. Perhaps this is what the United States and Israel want, but this will never achieve anything of value. Those who believe such a continuation will achieve the declared or the undeclared goals of the hostile alliance against our nation are

wrong. This hostile attitude, together with Arab weakness and pan-Arab disruption, may impose a prolonged truce but will not achieve those goals because all Israeli military victories and all Western political, economic, armament support for the Zionist entity cannot eliminate Arabs' belief in their rights and in an inevitable and final Arab victory. Anything imposed on a generation suffering from all this weakness and disruption cannot bind any future generation, which may possess the will to fight, to unite, to rise above divisions, grudge, and whims and direct all this toward a sacred war to defend their land and honor and achieve victory.

Columnist: U.S. 'Most Dangerous Enemy of All Nations'

JN1407101493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "What Is Behind America's Aggressive Policy?"]

[Text] We can understand the motives behind the continued U.S. Administration's attacks and threats against fraternal Iraq. The U.S. Administration is resolved to remove any obstacle to its control over Arab oil resources in the Gulf, Iraq, or the Arab Maghreb.

The continued economic setbacks in the United States and the rise of strong, vigorous, rival economies in Japan and Germany make the United States fearful of sinking to the level of a second-class nation, similar to what happened to the Soviet Union. It is a fact that neither the United States, nor NATO, nor any other power on earth managed to defeat the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union collapsed primarily because of the collapse of its economy, in addition to other factors of disintegration and domestic betrayal.

We would not be exaggerating at all if we said that the specter of the collapse of the Soviet Union is pursuing U.S. leaders, depriving them of sleep, especially since the U.S. economy is suffering from crises and indebtedness which are very difficult, even impossible, to redress.

The U.S. Administration is therefore determined to hold on to Arab oil, a lifeline of the technology of Europe and Japan, and consequently a key to their economies.

Thanks to Arab oil, the U.S. Administration can paralyze any economic growth in Japan, Germany, and Europe. Therefore, the U.S. Administration can blackmail and twist the arm of states advanced technologically and economically whenever and howsoever it wants.

The reasons for the U.S. Administration's fierce onslaught against Iraq can be understood against this background.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the U.S. Administration fears Iraq more than any other powerful nation in the world. This is because a strong Iraq with a will to put up a challenge and a fight, and capable of weakening U.S. military power in the Arabian Gulf, could twist the arm of the United States, weaken its economy, and cause it to collapse. Consequently, it would be transformed from a superpower into a second-class state.

As for the U.S. alleged concern for peace, security, and stability in the region and the world, this is an outright lie. The United States is the very state which ignited previous and current regional wars and disputes.

Regarding its alleged concern for human rights, this is the biggest lie in the history of the modern world. The United States was the first state to use weapons of mass destruction against Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, and Iraq. It was also the first country to raise the phrase of nuclear and atomic arms race, as well as Star Wars. It was the first state to produce intercontinental ballistic missiles. Further, the United States has set up aggressive coalitions to strike at all national liberation forces worldwide. The United States is the self-appointed guardian of colonialist interests in the world.

The United States moves its fleets and armies and assembles them by coercion, force, and threats on the land and in the waters of other nations.

The United States chases the leaders of peoples aspiring for liberation, independence, and progress, just as the Roman empire did in its dark ages. This brings to mind the Roman empire's pursuit of the unmatched Moroccan leader Hannibal to take revenge against him for its defeats at his hands.

Is it not a great disgrace for a superpower like the United States to kill the Somali people, who are already wasted by starvation and epidemics, and pursue their national leaders who have the support of the people?

Is it not shameful for the United States to treat leaders of other nations the same way it treats American gangs and killers, using the "wanted" method?

There can be no doubt now that the United States, based on its current policy, is the biggest, most dangerous enemy of all nations, including its allies and friends.

The United States is a despotic, arrogant, tyrannical, aggressive, and ferocious state, taking the international arena for a jungle in which the strong devours the weak, exactly as the Roman empire did in its dark ages.

The fate of the United States will be the same as, if not far worse than, that of the Roman empire.

Al-Hariri on Peace Process, Resistance in South

NC1407075593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Address by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the Chamber of Deputies session on 13 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A certain issue was broached by certain brother deputies that I would like to address. The issue is related to a statement attributed to me regarding Lebanon's situation should peace be reached with Israel. I did not say that Lebanon should reconcile with Israel. What I did say is that this government's duty is to work along two lines. One is to establish a strong government to help Lebanon remain steadfast if the situation remains unchanged. And, should there be peace with Israel, we must all be prepared to confront the dangers of this peace. If this government does not want to think of the future and what may happen and only focuses on the present, then what may happen in either case will demonstrate that this or any other government is not doing its job. The government has decisively settled this issue. The cabinet discussed it, and we have debated it more than once. We entered the peace talks to regain our occupied land. Should there be peace [sulh] in the region, we are part of this region. We will not conclude a separate peace and will not stand alone. If peace is not reached, Lebanon and this government in particular—and I hope for support from the Chamber of Deputies for the government effort—will take any necessary steps to help the Lebanese people remain steadfast if things remain unchanged indefinitely.

Should peace be established, it will have dangers. This government is supposed to consider the dangers of peace and try to prepare the Lebanese people to confront the dangers of peace, should it be reached. I hope that my position on this issue is clear. [noise in background] I have not finished, brother 'Ali. First, no one can conclude peace by himself. Lebanon, the government, and the prime minister cannot conclude peace by itself. Neither the prime minister, nor the president, nor the cabinet can conclude peace. A peace treaty must be approved by the Chamber of Deputies. If there will be peace, God knows. We are part of this region, and, as I said before, we entered the talks along with the Arabs and will continue with them, and we will walk out or continue with the Arabs. This issue has been decisively settled.

Regarding the south and the resistance there, the government stressed more than once the Lebanese people's right to regain their land by all means they deem necessary. Several countries have repeatedly asked us why the Lebanese Government has not disarmed the resistance yet. Of course, the question did not use the word resistance. Our answer has always been that no one can ask the Lebanese who fight to regain their land to lay down their arms while Israel continues to occupy part of southern Lebanon and western al- Biqa'. This is the government's position. This position is no secret but is public—one that we have declared in all international forums. The cabinet declared it a few days ago. Every week I am personally asked this question, and I reiterate the same position. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Comments on Military Escalation in South

NC1307155493 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the current military escalation in the south cannot be separated from the peace process. He added that the south is currently being used as a political pressure card against Lebanon and other parties concerned with the peace process.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, he said that Lebanon refuses to be dragged by Israel into security issues to make it pay a political price that would affect the substance and core of the peace process.

Dissatisfaction With Jibril's Presence Noted

NC1407063193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] AFP has quoted an authorized source in Beirut as saying that the appearance of Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], in Beirut caused dissatisfaction within government circles. Urgent contacts were held between Lebanese and Syrian officials that led to his departure. Jibril's visit started on Thursday [8 July] in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and lasted until Friday night. During the visit, he met with Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah.

AFP has reported that a Tunisian was among Jibril's armed group that killed two Israeli soldiers in the south on Thursday. The Tunisian was killed during the attack. The PFLP-GC said earlier that all its members had returned safely to their base.

Commentary Notes 'Special Importance' of Ross Tour

JN1207202693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Syrian-U.S. talks began yesterday on the Middle East peace process and the U.S. role as full partner and honest broker in trying to reach a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the principles of the Madrid Conference, Security Council resolutions, and the principle of land for peace.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross's tour has special importance in light of the negative results of the Washington talks. The Arabs and the whole world with them, expected the 10th round to produce real progress and a change in the Israeli position as hinted by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. But the intransigent Israeli position has not changed at all, and the role of full partner has not been reflected in the talks or on the Israeli negotiators.

Disappointment has increased with the continued Israeli efforts to build more settlements, change the characteristics of the occupied Arab territories, and impose a tight siege on them. This disappointment grew with the escalation of Israeli violence in south Lebanon and the series of warnings made by Israeli officials to the Lebanese Government about broadening the scope of military operations if the Lebanese resistance does not stop.

Naturally, the Lebanese Government, Army, people, and resistance reject what Israel wants them to do; namely, to be guards of its security, to provide stability and reassurance for its invading forces, and therefore, to relinquish an important and vital part of their land that is rich in water resources.

Since the U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross, has come to the region to advance the peace process and narrow the gap between the parties to the conflict, as he said, then it should be recalled that the Arabs want a real, strong peace that restores to them their occupied territories and secures freedom, sovereignty, and stability to the Palestinian people on their own land.

What the Arabs have presented for the sake of peace has been appreciated by the international community. Syria played a great role in opening the doors Israel closed in the face of the opportunities for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The Arabs have responded favorably to the U.S. initiative and to both the Bush and Clinton administrations, based on firm principles that led to the Madrid Conference, then to the Washington talks. These principles were accepted by all parties, and on their basis the negotiations were held. Ten rounds of talks made no progress because Israel violated the principles of the peace process and refused to translate them into facts on the ground. The Arabs declared their readiness to realize permanent peace. No one heard a pledge from Israel to fully withdraw from the occupied territories. We heard almost daily statements rejecting full withdrawal from the Golan and discussion on Jerusalem and settlements.

If Israel does not respect Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 governing the peace process, and the principle of land for peace, which is the essence of the U.S. initiative, then how can the talks realize the hoped-for results? The Arabs expected the United States to take the initiative and correct the clear deficiency in the course of negotiations by putting Israel face to face with the facts of the settlements. The foremost of which are full withdrawal from the occupied territories, recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and full implementation of Security Council resolutions. However, the U.S. intervention so far has not influenced the Israeli position, which prevented progress in the negotiating process because it is not committed to implementing its principles. The United States should have used its weight to realize both sides of the equation—peace and withdrawal. Thus, the Washington talks turned into a one-sided dialogue. The Arabs declare their adherence to all commitments according to this equation, and Israel still rejects exchanging land for peace, and places obstacles to any progress.

It is clear that the dangerous escalation in south Lebanon and the series of threats and provocations made by Israeli officials are part of its design, aimed to abort the peace talks. A return to the principles of the Madrid Conference as the sole basis for a comprehensive and just solution, and the translation of these principles into reality is the way to a solution. Here in particular, lies the role of full and honest partner promised by the U.S. Administration. Land for peace, full peace in return for full withdrawal— Short of this, the Washington talks will continue to falter, moving in a vicious circle.

Radio Wants U.S. 'To Move From Words to Deeds'

JN1307162493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In a letter to President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. President Bill Clinton affirmed U.S. concern for the Middle East peace process and for playing the role of a full partner and honest broker. Special peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross said the United States wants to see a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This U.S. stand dispelled some of the doubt surrounding the future of the peace process after the failure of the 10th round and the growing Israeli intransigence.

Naturally, in time positions will be evaluated in light of deeds, not words. Thus, the United States is asked to move from words to deeds and to invigorate the peace efforts. The only way to do this is by reembracing the

bases of the Madrid Conference and the Security Council resolutions, as well as the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Arab delegations spent 20 months in Washington trying in vain to convince the Israeli negotiating team to adopt the bases of the Madrid Conference as a starting point for the negotiations and a path to a just, comprehensive, lasting peace in the region. Syria presented an objective, balanced paper, which so far is the only paper on the Syrian-Israeli track. The Israeli side continuously avoided the fifth item of the Syrian paper that stipulates full withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The situation was the same on the other tracks. Israel refused to withdraw from south Lebanon and to implement Security Council Resolution 425. It tried to dictate its unjust conditions on the Palestinian side, by excluding Jerusalem and the settlements from discussion. Israel made no goodwill gestures to promote peace. It asked for treaties, open borders, regional cooperation, and broad security guarantees.

Israel, in brief, is asking for too much in return for too little. It wants more than what is stipulated in the Security Council resolutions when the question has to do with peace and security. It offers far less than what the resolutions say regarding withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and acknowledging the rights of the Palestinian people.

Faced with such an obvious defect and imbalance between peace and withdrawal, the Washington talks could not make the desired progress. The Arabs responded to the U.S. initiative based on clear foundations and sure commitments regarding the return of all of their occupied territories. After 10 rounds, they found out that Israel is pursuing evasion, maneuvering, and prevarication while waiting for an appropriate opportunity to undermine the entire peace process. Naturally, louder voices were heard wondering about the full partner and honest broker role the United States pledged to play and ways to translate it into tangible reality.

Syria, along with the Arabs, realizes the United States has an interest in the peace process and that the credibility of the international community depends on achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, doing justice to the Palestinian people and saving them from their current predicament.

Israeli rulers of all shades, however, are practicing a large-scale policy of blackmail against other nations, and a policy of terrorism and torture in the occupied Arab territories. Israeli rulers make many peaceful statements when the question has to do with receiving huge financial and military aid from the United States and other nations. At the same time, they pursue a policy in the occupied territories contradicting these statements.

The Palestinian people have been subjected to the fiercest kinds of oppression, suppression, killing, and displacement. Thousands of their homes have been demolished under the pretext of peace. The Lebanese people are being subjected daily to brutal shelling under the pretext of their resistance to the occupation forces. In both cases, Israel is trying to dictate conditions to the Palestinian and Lebanese sides to make them be content with the crumbs of the desired just settlement under the U.S. initiative and Washington's guarantees.

Israel is seeking to destroy U.S. peace efforts and lay siege to the role of full, honest partner by making up crises, escalating tension, heating up the situation, launching threats, and leveling accusations. It blames the Arabs for everything, despite the fact that its occupation of Arab territories is the source of tension. Its full withdrawal from these territories in exchange for peace in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the Madrid Conference foundations would restore calm, security, safety, and peace to all Middle East nations.

Syria has reaffirmed—through President al-Asad—to the U.S. delegation which visited Damascus as part of a regional tour, that it is determined to work for a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on Security Council resolutions. The U.S. delegation heard similar views from the Arab capitals it visited.

Peace is at hand now and tomorrow, on the condition that Israel abides by the bases of the Madrid Conference and returns the occupied Arab territories. The U.S. endeavor to convince the Israeli rulers to comply with these bases, exchange land for peace, and respect international law is an actual translation of the role of full partner and honest broker Clinton pledged and the world welcomed.

Afghanistan

'No Breakthrough' Reported at Hekmatyar-Dostam Meeting

BK1307103093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Kabul, July 13 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has held talks outside Kabul with his erstwhile bitter foe, Uzbek warlord General Abdol Rashid Dostam, but no breakthrough was reported between the two leaders.

"General Dostam came to see Prime Minister Hekmatyar at a military base east of Kabul late Monday [12 July] afternoon," Qaribur Rahman Sayyed, a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] faction said in Kabul Tuesday.

"Hekmatyar in his capacity as prime minister has the obligation to meet all Afghans who want to see him," Sayyed said.

Sayyed said Hekmatyar and Dostam met for 2-1/2 hours, including 90 minutes of private talks.

Although little of substance was achieved at the meeting, the event was significant as a symbolic reconciliation between two former military adversaries who fought bitterly for control of Kabul after the April 1992 fall of Kabul to a coalition of Mojahedin and Dostam's Uzbek militia.

Since the takeover fighting between different factions has devastated the capital and killed tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians.

Sayyed said Hekmatyar and Dostam signed no formal agreements but reached mutual understanding on the need for maintaining the ceasefire in Kabul, encouraging peace throughout Afghanistan, and implementing the Jalalabad accords, the two-month old political agreement between all the main mujahedeen groups.

It was not known if Dostam formally requested seats on Hekmatyar's cabinet, or if the prime minister reiterated his previous call for Dostam to withdraw his powerful military forces from Kabul.

Sayyed said "security problems still exist" that are preventing Hekmatyar from moving into the capital and that the prime minister would continue to use the Darulaman Palace in the south of the city.

He said agreement had been reached whereby cabinet ministers could use a secure route to Darulaman via the Hezb-controlled Chelsitun District, which links the north and south of the city.

However Dostam's formal acceptance of Hekmatyar as the country's prime minister is far from clear.

At Monday's meeting with Hekmatyar, Dostam is reported as saying he would "try to help pave the way for the prime minister to go to his official office," but Dostam's men actually prevented the first Darulaman cabinet meeting taking place about three weeks ago by blocking access to palace.

On the front page of the latest issue of "MUJAHED," the official Jamiat [Islamic Society] newspaper, there is a special article quoting Dostam as saying he recognises Hekmatyar only as the leader of Hezb-e-Eslami, not as Afghanistan's prime minister.

Rabbani Sees 'No Reason' for Further Fighting

LD1307174093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan told a news conference today that with the victory of the Islamic revolution, and particularly now that a relatively broad-based government has begun work under the leadership of esteemed brother Engineer Hekmatyar, there is no reason for people to be concerned and for insecurity to continue. Under the terms of the Islamabad and Jalalabad agreements weapons are to be surrendered to the Defense Ministry commission. Military armament and checkpoints in the city will be eliminated.

President rofessor Borhanoddin Rabbani took part at a news conference that was held this afternoon and was attended by domestic and foreign journalists and press attaches of some friendly countries. Some verses of the Koran were read out at the opening. Then the esteemed president spoke about the development of the situation in the country and the participation of Afghanistan's high-ranking delegation in the ECO [Economic Conference Organization] conference. At the conference, the esteemed president spoke about the necessity of a permanent peace for the reconstruction of the country, the role of the 14-year jihad of our people in dismantling the Russian empire, the construction of a new world order and the freedom of a number of countries, and international loans for the reconstruction of our country.

The esteemed president emphasized that a relatively broad-based government has been formed in Afghanistan under the leadership of esteemed brother Engineer Hekmatyar. Thus all reasons for war should be completely eliminated and moves should be made toward meeting the nation's will, i.e. free elections.

Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani then answered questions put to him by local and foreign journalists.

India

Tarapur Nuclear Fuel Supply Issue 'No Win' for U.S.

BK1407093193 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 93 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, July 7—India has far more options in dealing with a possible cut-off of nuclear supplies by the

United States for the Tarapur atomic power plant than the United States has with regard to forcing India to join a nonproliferation regime by holding out fuel for Tarapur as a bait, says a recent study on the nuclear fuel supply issue.

The study "Tarapur: The Politics of Nuclear Age" by Delhi University don Gurusharan S. Dhanjal, says Tarapur also illustrates the limits of nuclear supply policy "whether used as a carrot or stick, as an instrument of influence over policies of problem nations" in the nonproliferation regime.

Mr. Dhanjal who is a scholar in international relations explores the multi-faceted dilemmas that embroil both India and the United States over the fuel supply issue. He says that India's firm stand rejecting a discriminatory NPT (Nonproliferation Treaty) and U.S. attempts to impose NPT or fullscope safeguards using Tarapur fuel as a carrot, had resulted in a "no win" situation for the Americans.

"A cut-off would not be without cost to the United States. It would obviously strain U.S.-India relations and might carry proliferation risks as well. Specifically, India would regard a U.S. cut-off as rendering the 1963 agreement null and void, ending India's obligation to safeguard the reactors and freeing it to reprocess the accumulated fuel."

The study points out that instead of U.S. acquiring a lot of leverage on India using Tarapur fuel supply, it was India that had counter leverage on U.S.. Though India's threat to abrogate the safeguards in case U.S. cuts off supply might be a bluff and might not be carried out, the United States was forced into a situation where it could not risk calling the bluff.

The reason was that if India really carried out its threat, it would endanger the nonproliferation regime while the blame for it would be laid at U.S. doorsteps.

Therefore, though the United States could, like the Canadians did in 1974, walk out of the obligation to supply fuel to Tarapur, imposing some costs on India in the process, this would not serve the larger purpose of the U.S. nonproliferation and foreign policy.

The United States, the scholar says, has had to seek a delicate balance all throughout the tortuous negotiations on nuclear fuel supply ever since the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978 imposed an obligation on it to restrict fuel supply only to those who accept the NPT regime or fullscope safeguards of all their domestic nuclear installations.

For long an arena of "conflicting national interests, perceptions and expectations," Tarapur became after the 1974 Pokhran nuclear test by India "an arena for a prolonged test of wills with overtones of mutual blackmail". Played against a bac[illegible]d of generally poor political-security relations be[illegible]e two nations, the scholar says, "the Tarapur story reveals a consistent pattern of U.S. self- delusion and self-inflicted wounds".

However, one factor the scholar does not take into account is that on the part of India, the threat of using alternate fuel of its own make, is not just a bluff. In 1983, Dr. Sethna was pressing the Government for a political clearance to use that fuel. But Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dithered which meant the U.S. was able to restrain India.

U.S. Motives in Opposing Russian Rocket Deal Viewed

BK1407055593 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 28 Jun 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Russian-U.S. Tension"]

[Text] Russia's relations with the United States started gaining greater depth with the coming to power of Boris Yeltsin. Now in economic difficulties, this military superpower has started striking an adverse posture and refusing to bow to U.S. pressures. As a result, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has canceled his scheduled visit to the United States at the end of this month on the issue of cryogenic engine supply to India. The visit is reported to have been canceled due to differences between the two countries on many economic issues, including U.S. pressure on Russia to cancel the $40 million rocket deal with India. The United States repeatedly says that the rocket deal should be canceled only because it could be used for military purposes. But the general impression is that the United States wants to stop Russia's entry into the high-technology trade because it wants to remain in control of the major portion of this vital market.

This is the the biggest jolt to U.S.-Russian ties since Yeltsin's coming to power. So far, Russia has been dependent only on the United States in every moment of crisis it faced. It followed the political direction of the United States in the UN Security Council. In fact, Russia was also forced to follow the U.S. line on many occasions, but the Russians are now increasingly realizing that if they continue to dance to the U.S. tune in formulating economic policies, its economic revitalization cannot depend on old friendships. For it, this is purely a commercial transaction, at a time when it is in dire need of foreign currency. Russia possesses many technologies which are in great demand in the international market.

The United States is not able to compete with other Western nations and Japan in marketing mass consumption products. It pins high hopes on its high technology market and Russia is going to be a big obstacle in realizing these hopes. That is why the cryogenic engine issue is affecting relations between the two countries so much. The U.S. concern is not military use, but trade interests. After all, it is no secret that India needs this technology to launch its satellites and India itself has said that it has no intention to use it for military

purposes. Nevertheless, the United States has already imposed sanctions on the Indian and Russian space agencies. Still, it is not satisfied with these measures and is trying many kinds of pressure tactics on Russia to cancel the deal. Now even the Russians know what the real meaning behind these pressures is.

Paper Analyzes Political 'Deadlock' in Nepal

BK1407081593 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 8 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Political Crisis in Nepal"]

[Text] Deadlock has continued in Nepal for more than a week. The tremendous success of the strike called by the leftists on 4 July has surprised many people. The day seemed like a holiday, not only in the capital of Kathmandu but in every city in the country. Despite the successful observance of the strike, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has stated that he will not step down as demanded by the opposition parties. Welcoming the proposal for a dialogue, the prime minister said that he has no objection to it.

It may be mentioned that the opposition is not happy with the prime minister's statement. The opposition parties have said they will not sit down for talks until the prime minister resigns, as his resignation is their main demand. The Joint Action Committee, formed by the major communist party in parliament—the United Marxist Leninist [UML]—and six other leftist parties, has announced a nationwide antigovernment campaign. It includes a three-day transport strike from 20 July and a three-day general strike combined with protest rallies from 9 August. The committee further decided that 1 million demonstrators will lay siege in Kathmandu if the government does not accept their demands within 35 days.

This indicates that the situation is worsening. Despite this, efforts are being made to resolve the issue peacefully. The people of Nepal do not like this long and drawn out situation, which will not only affect the tourist industry but will also set back the political process in the country. People say that the communists have reason to be agitated. The relationship between the opposition parties and the government started deteriorating after the killing of UML Secretary General Madan Kumar Bhandari and party chief Jibraj Asrith on 17 May. The leftists launched their campaign toward the end of June after the publication of an inquiry committee's report on the two leftist leaders' deaths. The government committee's report said the deaths were accidental, but this was not accepted by the people. Newspaper reports speculated about a conspiracy behind the killings, and the leftists agree. They allege that the government knows who the killers are and is protecting them. The opposition parties pledged to continue their campaign until the killers are identified and brought to trial. But their first demand is the resignation of the prime minister.

It may be mentioned that the prime minister's opponents within the ruling Nepali Congress will be happy if he quits. This disunity within the ruling party is known to the leftists. For this reason, the leftists are saying that they only want Koirala's resignation, not the Congress government's; they want the ruling party to change its leadership. Koirala's opponents within the Nepali Congress know very well that acceptance of the opposition demand would be a political victory for the communists. This would lead to an unpleasant situation, because the people would accuse the ruling party of appeasing the communists. No one will have anything to say if the prime minister steps down voluntarily. Everybody is waiting for a decision by Ganesh Man Singh, the supreme leader of the Nepali Congress. His decision will be final.

The UML's position is also precarious. They have intensified the campaign, but it is not clear how they will achieve their goal. At this stage, they cannot call off the campaign. If they do so, they will not be able to enjoy the fruits of their success so far. The extremist United People's Front and the moderate National Democrat Party have agreed to continue the campaign. In the meantime, several rounds of secret talks have been held between leaders of the ruling Nepali Congress and the UML to resolve the crisis. If they are able to work out an acceptable formula, well and good. Otherwise, the movement will continue.

Curfew in Force in Srinagar; 3 Killed, 22 Arrested

BK1307145993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] In Kashmir valley, at least three militants were killed in militancy related incidents during the past 24 hours. Security forces arrested 22 militants and recovered some arms and ammunition from them. Official sources said in Srinagar this evening that two militants were killed near the Line of Control soon after they had infiltrated from across the border and ignored the security forces' warning to surrender. Another militant was killed in an encounter with security forces at village (Khanpura Vadhar) in Badgam District. Curfew was imposed as a precautionary measure in five police station areas of old Srinagar city today. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere.

Committee Subpoenas Rao's Documents in Payoff Case

BK1307162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scam today summoned certain documents from the Prime Minister's Office [PMO] relating to November 1991. The JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Nivas Mirdha, told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the engagement list of the Prime Minister's Office on 4 November 1991 has also been sought. The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam [MTN, Metropolitan

Telephone Exchange] has been asked to provide some records. Both the PMO and MTN are to submit the records before Tuesday [20 July] next. The JPC also dispatched questionaires to nine persons in connection with stock broker Harshad Mehta's allegations. They have been asked to respond to them by next Tuesday. The interrogatories were sent to the OSD [officer on special duty] in PMO, Mr. R.K. Khandekar; former Union Minister Mr. Dalbir Singh; two officials of the Finance Ministry, Mr. Kamal Pandey and Mr. Paul Joseph; the Bombay Stock Exchange official, Mr. M.R. Maya; Mr. Sunil Mittal, Mr. Ashwin Mehta, Mr. Mohan Khandelwal, and Mr. Manmohan Sharma. Mr. Mirdha said that the copies of the letter from the former [president of the] Central Board of Direct Taxes, Mr. P.K. Gupta, had been sent to the Finance Ministry for its comments and to submit relevant files. He said copies have also been sent to the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the rural development minister, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur, personally.

The JPC will hold its full meetings from Monday onward to discuss the draft report.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Congratulates Intelligence Staff

LD1307174393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Excerpts] After visiting the Ministry of Intelligence today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a gathering of the ministry's staff, and paid tribute to their selfless efforts in safeguarding the security of the country. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In the same way that our revolution was unique and was not modelled on any other revolution, the security scheme envisaged for it is unique too, and is not based on a borrowed model.

We really have had a lot of problems. To be fair, in view of all the problems, the enemies, and their ceaseless acts of mischief, protecting such a revolution against all conspiracies and malicious intentions is a really difficult and arduous task.

In addition to God's will and divine traditions, such protection requires certain instruments. You are like a bridge for these divine instruments. Your contribution to the protection of this divine revolution is indeed very significant. I would like to congratulate you on all the successes you have achieved. God willing, in the future there will be more such successes.

The president added: One of your assets is the people's satisfaction. You work for the people, therefore your relations with them should induce their trust in you, while allowing the officials of the country to feel confident about using your opinions as an axis for their decisions. [passage omitted]

The president then referred to the progress of the country during the past four years, and also to the future prospects. He said: During the next few years we will approach the boundaries of real self-sufficiency, and our economic problems will decrease. The plans presented in the Ministry of Intelligence are a cause for hope and pride. We, in turn, have tried to remedy the infrastructural economic problems to a large extent during the previous development plan. In the next plan, the country's problems will be resolved.

Khamene'i Comments on U.S. 'Gullibility'

LD1407101993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jul 93

[From the news headlines]

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, met with a large group of the hezbollahi ummah of various strata this morning. He made a speech in which he stressed the need for every member of the nation to move toward Islamic morality and human virtues.

On the role played by incorrect upbringing and poor moral values on the great world tragedies, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Corrupt morals, deceit and lies told by the major powers, are the main factor responsible for the massacre of a Muslim nation in the heart of Europe.

Stressing the point that today every member of the Iranian nation chants the slogan Death to America, the leader of the Islamic revolution graciously said: The gullibility and naivity of America's present authorities are exposed by the point that they have failed to understand that satanic deeds against our great, courageous, and devoted nation and against the state of Iran with its spiritual power will have no effect other than further disgracing the perpetrators and they will be defeated in confrontation. We will continue the path of Islam with strength and might, as the revolution and the imam have taught us.

Government Reportedly Refuses To Admit 'Abd-al-Rahman

PM1307150093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 12-18 Jul 93 pp 16-18

[Report by Hamid Haydar: "Iran Refuses To Receive 'Abd-al-Rahman"]

[Excerpts] Well-informed Iranian sources have emphasized to AL-WASAT that Tehran will refuse to receive Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman if he is not extradited to Cairo and the United States demands that he leave its

territory. The sources said: "Ww have enough problems and we will not receive the shaykh or any other Egyptian Islamists."

A senior Iranian official, who asked to remain anonymous, has said that the issue of the Islamic groups and the arrest of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman in the United States "contains a great deal of noticeable exaggeration which reveals intentions beyond the declared aim."

The Iranian official denied that his country has any organizational link with the Egyptian Islamic groups. Iran, he said, looks at the confrontation between these groups and the government "from the angle of the joint Islamic slogans between us and these groups."

In this context AL-WASAT interviewed an "Islamic Jihad" leader over the telephone. He pointed to "the severe splits experienced by the Islamic groups, their lack of a unified leadership, the absence of a clear political program that unites them, and their preoccupation with side battles and unreal or imaginary enemies."

On Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's personality the leader said that "his personality is a mixture of simplicity and openness when he deals with matters, not the personality of a leader of the Islamic groups. There are inside and outside Egypt leaders who are more important than him. But they benefit from the symbol he represents among public opinion." [passage omitted]

The Iranians believe that stirring up the clamor over 'Abd-al-Rahman's role in Egypt's domestic incidents and the attempt to link his arrest with the World Trade Center explosion are a prelude to implicating Iran and preparing to subject it to a military strike similar to what happened to Iraq.

Iranian sources say that Israel has drawn up a scenario for this strike and is planning for it and trying to push Iran to provide justification for the required strike.

This is why Tehran refused or avoided official comment on the Shaykh's arrest. [passage omitted]

State Department Warning Based on 'False Information'

LD1307104193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative office at the United Nations has issued a statement criticizing the U.S. State Department's claims about Iran's hostility [khoshunat] toward Westerners. In a statement the U.S. State Department warned U.S. citizens against what was described as hostility shown by Iranian forces [niruha] toward citizens of Western countries in former Yugoslavia, especially Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The U.S. statement was isued at a time when the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] are busy studying the question of dispatching peace-keeping forces to Bosnia. The statement issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent mission says that another aim of the State Department's action is to render ineffective the outcome of the ICO meeting in Pakistan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's mission stresses: The U.S. statement has been drawn up on the basis of false information and is a demonstration of the U.S. Administration's enmity toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and Washington's irresponsible behavior in international relations. The Iranian statement stresses that, until now, Iran has, in accordance with Security Council resolutions, only provided humanitarian assistance to the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Velayati Hails ICO Plan on Bosnia, Returns Home

LD1407073693 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati termed as "important, strong and practical" the approval of an executive plan for dispatch of peace-keeping forces to Bosnia at Islamabad extraordinary meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] [which] ended Tuesday [13 July]. Velayati returned home Tuesday night from the Pakistani capital where 16 foreign ministers of OIC member states held a two-day meeting on Bosnia.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival, he described as "unique and unprecedented" the decisions adopted at the meeting. The organization, he added, in an unprecedented manner and away from ballyhoo, voiced readiness to implement practical plans in a corner of the Islamic world. According to him, the plan was aimed at serious participation of Islamic states in peace-keeping affair in Bosnia and prevention of continued aggression against the Bosnian Muslims.

Once the United Nations approve the plan, it would have no more excuse to sit idle and keep watching the continued Serb-Croat aggression against the Bosnian Muslims, Velayati said.

As for the West's attitude towards the plan, the minister hoped that they would welcome the plan and prove that they are abiding by their slogans on human rights.

Habibi, Bosnian Envoy Discuss 'Critical Situation'

LD1407081793 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Bosnian Ambassador to Tehran Omar Bahman here Tuesday [14 July] expressed concern over the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said that the enemies intended to extinct [as received] Bosnian Muslims.

In a meeting with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Tuesday, he said that the Bosnian people and government would continue their fight against the Serbian atrocities through reliance on the Almighty God and the help of Muslim nations.

Habibi said that Iran was very much concerned over the developments in Bosnia and that Tehran was always searching for a real and proper solution to the Bosnian crisis.

Now that the Muslims are making efforts to restore their Islamic identity, the enemies of Islam and Muslims have resorted to various schemes to confront Muslims. The Islamic countries should realize the danger and encounter it, he stressed.

Foreign ministers of 16 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in an extraordinary meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, yesterday adopted a plan to dispatch peace-keeping troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Larijani Says Saddam, U.S. Jeopardize Gulf Security

LD1307155093 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Vice-chairman of Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani, said here Tuesday [13 July] that ambitiousness of Saddam Husayn and hegemonistic attitude of the U.S. Administration have put the Persian Gulf security in jeopardy.

In a meeting with the special envoy of the Kuwaiti Government in the commission for the settlement of border dispute with Iraq, Tariq 'Urzuqi, Larijani said Washington is after an unchallenged domination over the oil resources of the region. This goal, he added, can only be attained through making the region insecure and changes in the governments.

Referring to Iran's support for Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion of the country in 1990, Larijani said the Islamic Republic of Iran favours a stable, secure, free and advanced Persian Gulf region. This will come true only through sincere and multilateral cooperation among the regional states, said Larijani.

'Urzuqi thanked Iran for its rational and principled stance over the Persian Gulf region issues. He also expressed his country's desire to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

UN Envoy Reports Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD1307134293 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 13, IRNA—Iraqi troops violated the cease-fire terms between Iran and Iraq nine times between February 21 and April 21, 1993, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, has said.

Kharrazi in a letter to the United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Monday offered details of the illegal Iraqi measures.

He said that a number of Iraqi armed peresonnel opened fire to an Iranian battalion in the vicinity of Sardasht, West Azarbaijan Province, on February 22, as a result of the clash two Iraqis were injured and three others were captured by the Iranian forces.

He said on April 13 an Iraqi armed tugboat penetrated into the Iranian territorial waters in the Arvand river and proceeded to confiscate an Iranian boat carrying passengers. The boat and its passengers were transported to Iraq, he noted.

Kurds Being Used as 'Pretext' To 'Embarrass' Iraqis

PM0907141093 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9 Jul 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Abdullah Hasanzade, assistant general secretary of the Kordestan Democratic Party of Iran, by special correspondent Claude Lorieux in Azadi, Iraqi Kurdistan; date not given]

[Text] "Tehran is using us as a pretext." Abdullah Hasanzade [name as published], the highest official of the Kordestan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) currently in Iraq, is categorical. By bombarding Iraqi Kurdistan the Iranian artillery is seeking not so much to neutralize the KDPI-Iran guerrillas—just as, in the West, the Turkish army is harassing the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party]—as to "embarrass" Iraqi Kurdistan.

Pacing the approaches to his Azadi mountain hideout, where fires were caused the previous day by shells fired from Iran, Mr. Hasanzade added: "There were no KDPI forces present where the Iranian army made its incursion into Iraq, nor were there any Iranian refugees in several villages that were bombarded. Iraqi Kurdistan has a weak government. It cannot break with Tehran. Iran is taking advantage of the power vacuum."

The assistant secretary general of the KDPI-Iran cites an article in the Iranian newspaper ABRAR which describes Iraqi Kurdistan as "a little Israel" and stresses that Turkey, Russia, and Iran ought to "destroy" it.

Azadi ("freedom"), a hollow encircled by mountains a few kilometers from the border of the Islamic Republic, also has a hospital run by World Physicians and International Medical Aid, where a nurse, Catherine, works alongside local personnel. The hospital, a long adobe building with a roof of thatch and soil, was attacked by six Iranian aircraft on 13 April, and since then has undergone artillery bombardments which force the patients to take shelter frequently.

After each alert the peshmergas ("those who defy death") remove all trace of the impact. Mr. Hasanzade commented: "No point in making the Iranian spies' work easier!"

PAC Official Discusses Private Sector Trade Ties

LD1307172993 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Vice-Chairman of Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) Johnson Mlambo here Tuesday called for establishment of economic ties between the private sectors of Iran and South Africa.

Mlambo, who arrived here Sunday [11 July], made the remark in a meeting with head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, 'Ali Naqi Khamushi.

The two sides agreed on establishment and expansion of economic and trade relations between the private sectors of the two countries.

Mlambo invited teams of Iranian economic experts to South Africa to explore the avenues for economic and trade cooperation.

PAC was founded by the younger and more active members of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1959.

UN Role in Somalia, Solution to Crisis Discussed

LD1307125093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] UN troops in Somalia launched a new attack on the supporters of General Mohamed Farah Aidid in which more than 100 Somalis were murdered. [passage omitted]

The UN forces arrived in Somalia with the aim of supplying aid to the victims of the famine, but are now concentrating their efforts against the forces supporting Farah Aidid. Therefore, it seems that the supply of aid has been overshadowed by the internal clashes and will gradually lose its priority.

At present, the foreign troops are reactive and, unable to understand the widening clashes, find it easier to change their methods and engage in unexpected firefights. However, it is clear that with each passing day these actions are moving further away from the UN resolutions and are entering a new phase in which the aim is to change the ruling structure of the country.

In reaction, some countries that have sent troops to Somalia are calling for a review of the initial aims of the stationing of forces, because they now believe that the goals of the multinational forces in Somalia have been changed without their knowledge.

The repeated attacks by the multinational forces on the positions of Aidid's supporters indicate that they have not been able to solve the problems of this country. After each attack, the angry people of Somalia take to the streets to oppose the presence of foreign troops. It is therefore possible to conclude that a military solution cannot defuse present tensions. It is necessary to create a situation in which the Somali people can peacefully decide their own future.

Many political experts believe that recent events in Somalia are an indication that the crisis has both a domestic and regional nature and, therefore, external solutions should not be sought, all the more so if that solution is executed through military means. It is obvious that the use of foreign forces and military equipment is not having a significant effect on the solution to the crisis.

Of course, some other political experts believe that the crisis in Somalia is being continued because a country, such as America—which is leading the attacks on the Aidid's supporters—is trying to overshadow its own domestic crisis and to indicate—within the context of the new international situation—the presence of problems for and obstacles to American interests, such as Gen. Aidid.

Commentary Considers Enhanced Cooperation With India

NC1407103993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary met high-level officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his visit to our country. Bilateral relations and international issues were discussed in the context of their distinctive circumstances and certain common cultural, political, and economic factors. India and Iran enjoy long-standing cordial ties.

Iran and India are members of the Nonaligned Movement, and economically they belong to the ranks of Third World countries and the countries of the South. These two characteristics have been instrumental in fostering deeper political cooperation on the international scene. In addition, cultural and historical links have resulted in a considerable broadening of bilateral relations between the two countries. In the economic sphere, the establishment of joint commissions indicate the keenness and enthusiasm on both sides for improvement of relations in the economic, commercial, technical, industrial, educational, agricultural, and cultural fields.

In the past few years, major events have paved the way for the greater cooperation between Iran and India in various areas. The end to the cold war and the new

international atmosphere following the dissolution of the Soviet Union have emphasized the need to prevent the infiltration of domineering powers, and the need to expand relations with the newly independent Central Asian republics. In addition, the free economic market in India and the increased activity of the private sector in Iran are among the factors that can be capitalized upon in this regard.

The visits of various political, economic, and commercial delegations on the normal and higher level between Iran and India have created greater understanding of the reciprocal needs of the respective markets and have paved the way for increased cooperation and exchanges. Regardless of the strong economic attractions, certain factors have marred relations between the two countries, though to a small degree. The issue of Kashmir, and the Indian Muslims, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran's sensitivity toward the condition of the Muslims of the world and of India, are topics that are discussed between Tehran and New Delhi in official and unofficial meetings.

In any case, in view of its numerous domestic problems, India is seeking to attain a sort of economic and political reconstruction in its international and regional relations. In addition, this country requires Iran's active and potential resources on its path toward economic reforms, including Iran's massive economic and mineral resources and its efficient manpower. Broadening mutual relations will benefit both the countries, especially as the foreign policies of India and Iran emphasize the expansion of ties with the Third World.

In general, we can conclude that Iran and India at the current sensitive juncture have realized the need for regional cooperation and collaboration, more than anything else. For this reason these two countries should eliminate all obstacles to create a foundation to prevent the West's intervention in the affairs of the Third World and its efforts to divert the political and economic programs of the Third World countries.

No Solution to Palestine Problem Anticipated

LD1307202593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Damascus announced that with the arrival of a team of the Fatah organization, led by Hani al-Hasan in Damascus, tripartite talks opened there yesterday with the presence of the two other main factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, opposed to the so called peace process. These two factions are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front [DF]. A DF spokesman, referring to the Palestinian session in Damascus, pointed out: The participants are discussing the results of the 10th round of the bilateral peace talks which ended in Washington on 1 July.

Apparently these talks among major PLO factions are taking place in the wake of the recent visit of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the political wing of the PLO to the Syrian capital and his meetings with the leaders of the Palestinian groups. It appears that current situation of the bilateral peace talks as well as the existing obstacles which in a way have threatened to stalemate the talks process and possibly to defeat it form the main subject of the Damascus talks.

Tenth round of the Middle East peace talks concluded out of the conditions when the U.S. proposed plan on the granting of limited self-rule to a Palestine, which will solely have administrative aspects, was seriously opposed by the Palestinians and eventually dismissed. The Palestinian negotiators at the so-called peace talks opposed the plan because the issue of Bayt al-Muqaddas [Jerusalem] and the status of the occupied lands are not included at this stage of the talks. They accused the United States of fully backing the views and postures of the Israeli regime. They said that the United States by proposing the plan has endangered the very basis of the peace process which was actually shaped up to enforce UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This is under the conditions when the talks process has made it incumbent upon America to pressure Israel, but on the contrary the U.S. officials, while justifying their measures, have turned the proposed plan as an effort to bring closer the views of the Palestinian and Israeli sides for advancing the talks. For this reason after the conclusion of bilateral negotiations in Washington the United States dispatched Dennis Ross, its new negotiator in the so-called Middle East peace process to the region. The new envoy who has replaced Edward Djerejian, held extensive talks during his visits to the capitals in the region last week and also met and conferred with the Jordanian officials in Amman yesterday.

Through consultations already held, Dennis Ross has endeavored to bring about flexibility in the Palestinian's posture on his proposed plan. In the same context one can refer to his meetings in Cairo in context with Egyptian officials. However, in general there are expressed doubts concerning his success in the talks.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian team began talks in Amman yesterday with Jordanian officials on setting up a Jordan-Palestine confederation. These talks will determine the six committees so that discussions can be held on the type of links between Jordan and the occupied lands. These talks have opened six days after an agreement was reached between King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat over resumption of the functions of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian group. Palestinian sources have expressed belief that they will protect the Palestinians' national rights to have these committees. The stand of Jordan as an independent entity too will be bolstered. In the midst, political experts, despite the sensitivity created on the issue of the Palestinian self-rule and the occupied lands, believe that so long as Israel continues to insist on its improper stance, it is not expected that a solution will be found to this issue.

Non-Oil Exports Register 58 Percent Increase in Value

LD1307135593 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Iran's non-oil exports rose by 234 percent in terms of weight and 58 percent in terms of value in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (started March 21) compared to the corresponding period last year. The Customs Department in a report released here Tuesday [13 July] said that some 1,555,000 [metric] tons of non-oil products, worth rls. 58,000 million (dlrs. 778 million), were exported during the period.

It added that hand-woven woolen and silk carpets remained top on the list of the non-oil exports, making up for 43 percent of the exports in terms of weight and 34.5 percent in terms of the total value.

Nepal

Groups Say Budget Offers 'No New Initiatives'

BK1307121693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 13 (AFP)—Non-governmental groups, exporters and even three former finance ministers criticised Tuesday [13 July] the Nepalese government's proposed 724.8 million dollar budget, saying it offered no new initiatives.

"It is a traditional, carbon copy of Panchayati budgets," said one economist, referring to the previous regime which was brought down by pro-democracy unrest in April 1990.

Introduced Sunday by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's finance minister, Mahesh Acharya, the budget for the fiscal year beginning Friday is heavily dependent on foreign aid,

Of the budget total, 462 million dollars will be targetted at various development projects.

But the National People's Council (NPC) said the budget would not be enough to significantly help the poor. "It will only obstruct growth of the national economy in spite of its (the government's) liberalisation policy," a statement said.

The NPC said it was especially concerned by what it saw as a lack of concrete policies for industrial growth, electricity supply and safe drinking water.

"The government also does not have plans to check price rises nor solve the unemployment problem," said the NPC, which went on to criticise the decision to increase land tax revenues by 100 percent in hilly regions and 500 percent in urban areas.

"Instead of abolishing property tax, the government has further consolidated it, which is unjustifiable," the statement added.

The Inter Corporation Staff Association also criticised the budget for failing to provide relief to corporation staff in the face of 20-percent inflation, and demanded pay increases.

At the same time, the president of the Oversea Exports Association, Gajananda Agrawal, said the budget's target of collecting 169 million dollars could not be achieved without stepping up imports from third countries other than India.

Agrawal also said it did not go nearly as far toward encouraging economic liberalisation as did budgets in neighbouring China and India, although he did welcome the decision to lower interest rates on loans charged to some businesses.

Meanwhile, three former finance ministers—Bekh Bahadur Thapa, Prakash Chandra Lohani and Devendra Raj [last name indistinct] described the budget as "disappointing."

Thapa noted that gross domestic product had increased by only 2.9 percent in the face of a 2.1-percent population increase.

"Considering the decline both in industry, due to power shortages, and in agriculture, due to droughts and insufficient rains, the country's economy can only move along the sluggish lines it has in the past," Thapa said, adding that he saw nothing in the budget which would change that.

Lohani complained the budget had "nothing new in it, and it heads nowhere."

He said the relatively weak economy had weakened the government's revenue-raising capability and hence its ability to carry out much- needed development projects.

Pakistan

Sharif Holds New Meeting With President 13 Jul

BK1307143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohmmad Nawaz Sharif, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] this afternoon. The one-to-one meeting, which lasted about 80 minutes, was in continuation of the two meetings held yesterday to explore ways and means to defuse the current political situation. The dialogue would continue in subsequent meets to be held in future.

Violence, Arson Reported in Karachi

BK1307162293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Some more incidents of burning vehicles and violence have been reported in Karachi. In the (?central) district, some unidentified people torched four vehicles

which included one Pakistan International Airlines contract bus, two public transport buses, and one (?special) express service bus. The incidents occurred in the (Farukhabad), Khwaja Ajmer Nagri, Gulbarg, and Jahanabad police station areas. The troublemakers also injured a police constable in sniper firing at (Garden) area. Several people have been arrested by the police in connection with these incidents.

Opposition Official Says March To Avert Martial Law

BK1307140593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Deputy Leader of the Opposition Farooq Khan Leghari has said the long march would help avert martial law and that the public pressure would force the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to announce elections.

Mr. Leghari was addressing a Press conference on Monday [12 July] in opposition's chamber at the Parliament's House. He was of the opinion that decision of the All Parties Conference to hold long march had been taken after all other options were exhausted. "The long march has now become inevitable to force the government into holding elections." He said that the public pressure would be so much as need to actually carrying the long march might not arise and the government might give in before July 16. [sentence as published]

Said the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader: "It is our considered opinion that it we do not bring to bear irresistible will of the people on the government, the martial law will always be likely. The situation is such that despite the army's remaining neutral, if the Prime Minister or the President do not dissolve the National and provincial assemblies, the third force would be compelled to step in." He said the Prime Minister should listen to the warning bells and come to senses before it is too late.

Farooq Leghari asked the government that the pretended option would be that the Prime Minister himself dissolved the assemblies. However, if he does not want to budge under the public pressure, then it would be the President's constitutional day to save the federation, dissolve assemblies and announce fresh elections. "If the President also fails to dissolve assemblies, we believe that he would not be acting in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

Talking about the long march, he threw light on the preparations saying that about 300,000 people are expected to participate and they would stage a sit-in around the capital. To a question, he said that the idea is that the peaceful demonstrators would come and block all exit points of the capital. "Once they are here and surround Islamabad, then it would be decided by the leadership whether to enter the capital or remain there."

He made it clear that objectives of the Long march were not to create any law and order situation but to make the President and the Prime Minister realise that either one of them should take the initiative to dissolve assemblies for the good of the nation. Leghari said that there is a consensus among the entire nation to the extent that even the Chief of the Army Staff is reported to have told the Prime Minister that elections are only way to avoid any further anarchy in the country.

Leghari dealt at Length as to why the need to give a call for the Long march has arisen. He blamed the government for not coming up with any substantive or viable political solution. He said it is wrong to say that there is tension between the two personalities of the state or relations are strained between the government and the opposition. "In fact there is grave political and constitutional crisis that has engulfed the entire country and it has been further compounded by the severe financial mishandling. The only way out is to seek a resource to the political sovereign."

He said that the Prime Minister is just posing to be interested in dialogue while actually he wants to divide the opposition. He cited many examples to argue that it was the government which never really came down to positive deliberation. "While the Prime Minister invites Bhutto for talks, he and his ministers keep on declaring that there can't be any early elections. The Speaker was directed by the Prime Minister to send references against 29 MNA's [members of the National Assembly] to the Election Commission while the similar references against the Prime Minister were shelved. If the Speaker says that he is just the post office and is bound to send those references, then he should remain so also in the case of the Opposition. To another question, he said that if the government had any reservations about the President's role in the elections, something could be worked out. "We have never closed our doors to negotiations and are still willing to talk. We can always seek guarantees so that the President does not play another horrible role in the elected system. But as far as the President's office is concerned, he should complete his term because the country's situation cannot afford another crisis at this stage."

He said the Prime Minister's nonseriousness is evident from the way he tried to conquer the Punjab and trampled the provincial autonomy.

Bhutto Stresses Peaceful Nature of Long March

BK1307143193 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Jul 93 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, July 12—The Opposition long march on Islamabad will be peaceful [and] aimed to demonstrate to the Government that the people of Pakistan want an end to the current crisis. This is only possible if free, fair and impartial elections are held.

This was stated by the leader of Opposition and former Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, said Pakistan People's Party [PPP] spokesman Shafqat Mahmood here on Monday [12 July] while taking strong exception to the Government propaganda that the Opposition's long march to Islamabad would lead to violence and bloodshed.

Taking note of a statement by Prime Minster Nawaz Sharif that during the 39-days of his being in the Opposition not a window pane was broken, the spokesman said that Mr. Nawaz Sharif has been in the Opposition for only 39 days.

But Shafaqat Mahmood said, the PPP and other component parties of the combined opposition have been resisting dictatorship and arbitrary rule for a long time.

He said during this period of resistance to the dictatorship large scale and historic rallies have been held without the slightest degree of violence or bloodshed.

Who can forget, said Shafqat Mahmood, that when Ms Bhutto came to Pakistan in April 1986, the country witnessed an outpouring of people the likes of which has never been seen.

But not a single window pane nor traffic light nor public property was damaged or even touched. Since then on many occasions not only huge rallies have been held but long procession has been taken out without any danger to public life or property, he said.

He said not too long ago in November 1992 the first phase of the long march was begun and even during that period it was the Nawaz Sharif government which besieged the capital introducing unprecedented security measures.

Shafqat said the violence came only from the side of the police and the administration and not from the side of the Combined Opposition.

He advised to the Prime Minister to desist from this negative propaganda. He particularly told him not to compare his 39-day of being opposition to the historic struggle of the democratic forces in the country.

Government Outlines Plan To Counter Long March

BK1307142193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] Islambad—Set to prevent APC [All-Party Conference] marchers from entering the capital, the government has mapped out a plan based on steps it had taken to counter PDA's [Pakistan Democratic Alliance] long march last year.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain disclosed to THE NEWS that "at no cost, the government would allow 'mischief-mongers' to storm Islamabad to meet their nefarious designs which, he said, "were illegal, immoral and unconstitutional."

He did not rule out the possibility of calling the army to assist the civil administration in case a need to do so arises.

The APC had announced on Sunday to march on capital on July 16 in a bid to force the Nawaz regime to quit and paving the way for fresh elections under an neutral caretaker set-up. Besides the PDA, the NDA [National Democratic Alliance] and the IJM [Islami Jamhoori Mahaz—Islamic Democratic Front] some other political groups will also take part in the march. Meanwhile, the governments of the Punjab and Frontier have also reportedly given their consent to support the move.

Chandhry Shujaat said that the federal government would take every possible measure to prevent marchers form entering the federal capital. "The government cannot allow anybody to endanger the life and property of the people by creating disturbance," the minister said.

"I have directed the interior secretary to take all preventive measures besides alerting the relevant agencies and authorities." Chaudhry said the federal government would also warn provincial governments of the Punjab and Frontier asking them not to violate law by taking part or assisting those who want to create disturbance.

The provincial governments, he said, would also be directed to fulfil their constitutional obligation by countering those who want to create law and order situation by surrounding the federal capital.

Terming the APC's call to storm the capital as illegal and unconstitutional, he said, "The opposition wants to achieve its political gains at the cost of poor people's lives". The government, he said, would not allow anybody to endanger people's life and property.

Experessing his doubts that the APC would really march to capital, he said, "in my personal opinion the opposition is just using pressure tactics."

He also expressed his reservation over the silence of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Benazir Bhutto's statement that GIK is backing the long marchers. "Benazir made this statement four days back but the President has not yet clarifed his position. Usually he sends clarification immediately even on very petty matters."

Chaudhry Shujaat said that GIK should clarify his position immediately otherwise it would create confusion among the people.

Information Minister Comments

BK1307164093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jul 93

[Text] Abdul Sattar Lalika, federal minister for information and broadcasting, has expressed confidence that the people will reject the call for the long march by politicians who have no representation in the National Assembly. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said that with the exception of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], the parties taking part in the long march have no representation in the parliament. He regretted that Ms Benazir Bhutto, who had earlier stated that the PPP would have no links with the political

orphans, is now cooperating with them. He said that there has been confusion in the PPP parliamentary party due to resignations of PPP members in the parliament and the PPP workers will be disheartened for the party's cooperation with various other parties in the long march. He added that there will be more discord in the party. Abdul Sattar Lalika expressed his concern that the Punjab government is using the funds of local bodies and government officials for the long march. He said that it will be extremely dangerous for the country. He said that the federal government will make every possible effort to ensure that no law and order situation is created during the long march. However, he warned that the opposition will bear the full responsibility if democratic institutions are harmed.

Challenges to NWFP Assembly Dissolution Dismissed

BK1407095493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] All the writ petitions challenging the dissolution of the NWFP [North-West Fronter Province] assembly were dismissed by the Peshawar High Court today. These petitions were jointly filed by Nawabzada Mohsin Ali Khan, Mr. Farid Tofan, Mr. Hidayatullah Afridi, Mr. Javed Akbar Khan, Begum Naseem Wali Khan, and Speaker of the NWFP Assembly Mr. Habibullah Khan Tarin.

Sharif Vows Continued Support for 'Poor Masses'

BK1407050393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that he will continue to serve the poor masses without caring for the obstacles being created in his way. He said this while talking to a delegation of the All Pakistan Combined Audit and Accounts Association which called on him in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister said his efforts are aimed at bringing Pakistan into the ranks of the developed nations. He said he is happy that the majority of the people is supporting him in this respect.

The delegation commended the government for working for the country's progress and prosperity during this brief period. The delegation members said that the people of Sindh are thankful to the Nawaz Sharif government, especially for taking steps to restore peace in the province and distributing land to the landless peasants. The delegation members apprised the prime minister of their problems about which he assured that due consideration will be given to them.

Sharif Reaffirms Pledge for Aid to Afghanistan

BK1407101093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has again pledged Pakistan's continued assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. In a letter to Prime Minister Golboddin Hekymatar, he expressed satisfaction over the current peace talks among various Afghan leaders, including General Rashid Dostam. The letter was delivered by the Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Amir Usman, who called on the Afghan prime minister at his Charsiab headquarters.

An envoy of the Pakistan Government, General Abdul Majid, was also present on the occasion. The Pakistan charge d'affaires in Kabul also called on head of the Jonbesh-e Meli-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan] Gen. 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. They discussed matters of mutual interest.